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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Testing the waters

Pentagon eyes random tests to better learn scope of infections

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will likely never have enough supplies to test the entire U.S. military, but leaders aim to test random units to improve their understanding of the scope of asymptomatic carriers in the ranks.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Tuesday that some two months into the coronavirus pandemic that the military has

little idea how many of its troops are actually carrying the virus without experiencing the tell-tale symptoms such as fever and breathing difficulties. The Pentagon knows 4,967 troops had tested positive for the disease, of which 100 had spent some time in a hospital battling the virus, 1,844 had recovered, and two of its service members died of complications caused by the illness, according to data released Tuesday.

SEE TESTS ON PAGE 5

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Attention turns to second wave as lockdowns ease worldwide

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SEAL candidates participate in "surf immersion" during Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training at the Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado, Calif., on Monday.

ANTHONY WALKER, U.S. NAVY/ AP

Navy SEAL recruits resume training while social distancing

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Navy SEAL recruits and their instructors are being tested for the coronavirus as the candidates in one of the military's most grueling programs return to training with new social distancing guidelines, a top official said Tuesday.

Everyone in the first phase of training will be tested to try to detect if anyone is infected but asymptomatic, Capt. Bart Randall

said. The rapid tests to be administered this week to 170 recruits and instructors are part of a Defense Department pilot project.

"Ideally we'll get any asymptomatic shedders out of the population to help keep the rest of the guys safe," said Randall, the Naval Special Warfare Center's commodore.

The recruits returned to training Monday after classes were paused March 16 as leaders

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MILITARY

B-1B bombers in Baltics for NATO training

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Two B-1B Lancers arrived in the Baltics to work with NATO allies this week, marking the heavy bombers' first flights to Europe in about 18 months.

After crossing the Atlantic, the Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.-based bombers flew with Danish F-16s over Bornholm Island, east of mainland Denmark, and worked with Estonian ground forces to provide close air support training, U.S. Air Forces in Europe — Air Forces Africa said in a statement Wednesday.

The training also included overflights of Lithuania and Latvia.

"Integrating bomber missions with our NATO allies and partners build enduring relationships that are capable of confronting a broad range of global challenges," said Gen. Jeff Harrigan, USAF-AFAFRICA commander.

The strategic bombers participated in the "Spring Storm" military exercise, the Estonian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"It is important that our allies understand that security cannot be put on pause for the duration of

the pandemic," Estonian Defense Minister Juri Luik said Tuesday, the Baltic Times newspaper reported.

The Lancers were last in Europe in November 2018 supporting NATO's Trident Juncture exercise.

Strategic bomber deployments to Europe have become more frequent in recent years, amid U.S. and European concerns about potential Russian aggression. In March, a flight of B-2 stealth bombers participated in a series of training operations on the Continent. And last August, the Air Force deployed a similar B-2 bomber task force to Europe.

The Air Force did not say how long the Lancers would remain in Europe.

The Europe mission for the variable-wing Rockwell jets came just after B-1B bombers from Texas flew to the Western Pacific region.

Four B-1Bs from Dyess Air Force Base arrived in Guam on Friday to conduct training and operations with allies and partners, the Air Force said.

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Danish air force

A B-1B Lancer flies with a Danish F-16 during a training mission for Bomber Task Force Europe on Tuesday. The strategic bombers are participating in the "Spring Storm" drill.

Marines help detain unruly passenger

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

Three Marines "stacked up" outside the door of a jetliner's bathroom and detained a passenger who had barricaded himself inside and screamed threats during a flight from Japan to Texas.

Capt. Daniel Kult, Sgt. John Dietrick and Pfc. Alexander Meinhardt, all with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, were on their way back stateside Monday when they heard the disruption, the Marine Corps said in a statement.

"We all heard the commotion and instinctively knew something needed to be done," Dietrick, an assault infantry Marine, told Stars and Stripes by text message Wednesday.

"The only thing that was going



JOSEPH GARRIS/U.S. Marine Corps

From left, Capt. Daniel Kult, Sgt. John Dietrick and Pfc. Alexander Meinhardt of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, are seen at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport on Monday. They detained a hostile passenger during a flight from Japan to Texas, a service statement said.

through our heads was to ensure the safety of all passengers on board and our fellow Marines."

The trio was about halfway through a six-month deployment to Camp Schwab on Okinawa as part of the service's Unit Deployment Program.

But for different reasons, each was cleared to travel back to the U.S. despite the Defense Department's coronavirus-related stop movement order.

"Honestly we just kind of naturally positioned ourselves in a manner to cover the exit and cover each other," Kult, an infantry officer from Coon Rapids, Iowa, told Stars and Stripes.

They gathered in a tactical "stack" at the lavatory and prepared to subdue the passenger as a flight attendant unlocked the door.

They restrained him after the flight's crew provided flex ties — locking plastic cable ties often used as handcuffs.

"You know how to work with a team, and you are trained to calmly insert yourself into a stressful situation," Kult said. "Even though we are all different ranks, we've had shared experiences in training that made this an easy situation."

After restraining the passenger in a seat, they watched him for the duration of the flight, which was diverted to Los Angeles International Airport, the statement said.

The passenger was transported to a hospital for a mental evaluation, and federal authorities are investigating the incident, it said.

The Marines who aided the flight crew are "men of action," said their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Chris Niedziocza, who said he knew all three of them.

"Honestly, I'm not surprised," Niedziocza said of their actions.

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Afghan forces: ISIS fighters who attacked Bagram killed in raid

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Five members of an Islamic State terrorist cell that attacked the largest American base in Afghanistan earlier this year were killed in a series of operations by Afghan commandos in and around Kabul, Afghan officials said Wednesday.

The terror cell, which was blamed for two rocket attacks on Bagram Airfield in recent months and for firing rockets at President Ashraf Ghani's inauguration in March, was eliminated and its leader captured in three raids in northern Kabul and a district just outside the capital, said the country's main intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security.

A video released by the NDS shows the bodies of men said to be members of the cell. The operations were conducted Tuesday evening, an official said in the video.

Eight fighters were arrested during the raids, which were carried out by special operations forces assigned to the NDS, the agency said in a statement.

No one was seriously injured in the attacks on Bagram or the presidential inauguration attacks, but 25 people, including women and children, were

killed in another attack blamed on the group, in which a gunman opened fire at a Sikh temple in Kabul in March.

Besides being part of Islamic State-Khorasan Province, the terror cell was said by the NDS to have ties to the Haqqani network, which is officially part of the Taliban but maintains district command and control over its own fighters.

The Haqqani network has been blamed for some of the most gruesome attacks in the country and was designated a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. in 2012.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter on Wednesday that none of the group's fighters are linked to ISIS and rejected the NDS statement as propaganda.

The Taliban and ISIS-K are bitter enemies and regularly clash on the battlefield.

Between 2,000 and 2,500 ISIS-K fighters are active in Afghanistan, according to data reported by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in January.

Zubair Babarkhail contributed to this report.
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Correction

A May 6 story should have said Army Pvt. Raylin D. James, 20, of Shreveport, La., is charged with an assault inflicting assistance in the first degree in the death of Army veteran Leroy Joseph Scott III.

MILITARY/VIRUS OUTBREAK

Germany eases more pandemic restrictions

By FRANK JORDANS
AND GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN — German officials on Wednesday cleared the way for restaurants, hotels and remaining stores to reopen in the coming weeks, and for the country's soccer league to resume play. They also put in place a requirement for regions to reimpose restrictions if coronavirus infections rebound.

Germany, which started shutting down public life in mid-March, has seen new cases decline significantly in recent weeks. It started loosening restrictions over two weeks ago, when small shops were allowed to reopen. Other facilities, including hairdressers and zoos, have followed.

"We have a very, very good development of the figures for new infections, and that makes it possible for us to take further steps," Chancellor Angela Merkel said after consulting with the governors of Germany's 16 states.

Politicians faced mounting pressure from businesses for a wide-ranging relaxation of restrictions, but Merkel made clear that there will be conditions and that all concerned will need to act responsibly.

Merkel said regional authorities will have to draw up a plan to reimpose measures for any county that reports 50 new cases for every 100,000 inhabitants within a week. Those restrictions could be applied only to a facility such as a nursing home, if the outbreak is concentrated there, or to the whole area. The aim is to avoid reimposing a shutdown nationwide.

"We must take care that things don't slip out of our hands, and I have a good feeling because we agreed on this emergency mechanism today," she said. "We are not just saying what we are opening, but also that if something happens locally we won't wait until it has spread through the whole



JENS BUETTNER/AP

Hairdresser Sylke Westphal works on the hair of her customer Ilse Kopsch in the salon HRRgenau in HRRgenau in Germany. On Monday, hairdressers were allowed to reopen in parts of Germany.

republic."

In highly decentralized Germany, states are responsible for imposing and loosening lockdown measures. That has led to increasing regional variations, with some governors more impatient than others — and Wednesday's decisions seem sure to strengthen that trend.

Large stores can now reopen everywhere. States will decide "in their own responsibility" on the step-by-step reopening of restaurants, which have been closed for all but takeouts, and hotels, which haven't been allowed to welcome tourists since March. They will have to seat customers more widely apart than usual and observe other hygiene rules.

Some regions want to start as early as Saturday.

Restaurants and hotels are the "most critical" sector for health reasons, Merkel said. With hotels reopening, "there will of course be more travel through the republic ... we will have to watch this process very, very closely."

While physical distancing rules will still apply and people will still have to wear face masks in shops and on public transport, Germany is now loosening slightly its rules on social contact. Since March 23, Germans have been allowed out in public only with one other person or with people they live with. They will now be

allowed to meet more than one person from another household and visit family living elsewhere when Germany marks Mothers' Day on Sunday.

Germany's soccer league, the Bundesliga, will be allowed to resume play starting in the second half of May, though with players being quarantined first and without spectators in stadiums.

States are being left to decide themselves on how and when to reopen theaters, cinemas, bars, clubs and other businesses, and how to open up creches for children before the summer.

Germany has reported more than 167,000 infections with the coronavirus, one of the world's highest numbers, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. But its death rate from COVID-19 has been far lower than that of comparable countries, with around 7,000 deaths recorded — attributed in part to wide testing early in the epidemic.

Merkel said it's up to Germans themselves to make sure their new freedoms work.

"I trust our citizens. Trust is the principle," Merkel said. "Of course you have to check occasionally, but if we don't have this trust that council leaders, mayors and health officials will work well, we might as well pack up and leave."

Soldier who died in Iraq was from Indiana

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sgt. Christopher Wesley Curry, a 23-year-old soldier from Terre Haute, Ind., died Monday in a noncombat-related incident in Irbil, Iraq, according to the Pentagon.

The incident is under investigation, though a coronavirus-related illness was not suspected in the death, the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition said Tuesday in a statement.

Curry was with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team,

25th Infantry Division. The unit is based from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

More than 90 U.S. service members have died as part of the coalition to train, advise and assist Iraqi and Syrian partner forces fighting Islamic State, Pentagon data shows.

This year, there have been seven coalition fatalities in Iraq and one in Syria. Of those, four Americans and one British soldier were killed in combat incidents — all in Iraq in early March.

The most recent noncombat death before Monday happened March 30, also in Irbil, where for-

eign troops are housed on a base at the international airport on the city's outskirts.

Sgt. 1st Class John David Randolph Hilty, 44, died in that incident, which the coalition said at the time was not believed to be linked to the coronavirus.

The investigation into Hilty's death was "open and ongoing," said Chris Grey, spokesman for the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Command in Quantico, Va.

Stars and Stripes staff writer Chad Garland contributed to this story. Kenney.Caitlin@stripes.com Twitter: @caitlinmkenney

US Space Force unveils first recruiting video

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Space Force unveiled its first official recruiting commercial Wednesday, featuring scenes from space, rockets launching, military troops in spacesuits and a glimpse of a secretive American space craft the service will launch this month.

In the short video, a young man looks longingly up at a night sky full of bright stars between short flashes of images associated with the military and space as a narrator says, "some people look to the stars and ask, 'What if?'"

"Maybe you weren't put here just to ask the questions," the voiceover says in the 30-second video. "Maybe you were put here to be the answer. Maybe your purpose on this planet isn't on this planet."

Gen. Jay Raymond, the chief of space operations, previewed the commercial Wednesday morning during a video conference with the Space Foundation, a Colorado-based nonprofit organization that advocates for the global space industry.

Raymond reported a high level of interest in his new military branch, which was founded in December and saw its first major expansion last month. The Space Force grew from two members — Raymond and his senior enlisted leader Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman — to 88 on April 18, when it added 86 second lieutenants who commissioned directly into the service upon graduating from the Air Force Academy.

Much like the naval academy commissions graduates in the Navy and Marine Corps, the Air Force Academy will commission its graduates into the Air Force and Space Force. Similarly, the Space Force is expected to remain inside the Air Force Department, as the Marines are in the Navy Department.

Raymond said he expected to see a lot of interest in joining Space Force driven by the new commercial, which directs people interested in the force to its website, spaceforce.mil. Officially, the Air Force is handling the recruiting efforts for the Space Force, which Raymond envisions remaining relatively small, reaching about 16,000 troops.

"There is no more critical time or exciting time to be in our business," he said. "If you are interested in serving, we are interested in having you."

Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, who spoke alongside

'There is no more critical time or exciting time to be in our business.'

Gen. Jay Raymond
chief of space operations

Raymond on Wednesday, said she was proud of the new commercial, which she described as an initial "effort to talk to the folks out there who would like to be part of an exciting, new, happening place."

After previewing the commercial, Barrett pointed out the inclusion of the secretive X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, an Air Force-owned, unmanned space craft that looks like a small version of a space shuttle.

The vehicle will be launched by the Space Force in Florida from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base, which will transition at some point to Cape Canaveral Space Force Base. It will mark the sixth mission into space for the X-37B, but the first conducted by the Space Force, which will be responsible for the vehicle's launch, its operations in orbit and its landing.

It will conduct a variety of missions, including five unspecified Air Force experiments, a test by the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory on transforming solar power into radio frequency microwave energy, and two NASA experiments on space's effects on certain materials and seeds, according to the Air Force.

The X-37B completed its most recent mission in October 2019 after spending 780 days in orbit. The vehicle has spent a total of 2,875 days in space, serving primarily classified operations, officials said.

Barrett dedicated the coming launch to the first responders and others working to battle the national health emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

It will mark at least the second launch by the Space Force, which sent a communications satellite into orbit in March in its first mission.

"Each launch represents a significant milestone and advancement in terms of how we build, test, and deploy space capabilities in a rapid and responsive manner," Raymond said.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK



ANTHONY WALKER, U.S. NAVY/AP

Navy SEAL candidates participate in "surf immersion" training in Coronado, Calif., on Monday. Capt. Bart Randall, Naval Special Warfare Center's commodore, said medical crews will be watching to ensure any coughs or other flu-like symptoms produced by the workouts are not a sign of the coronavirus.

Training: Grueling SEAL program is back, but coronavirus concerns alter its procedures

FROM FRONT PAGE

established safety standards amid the pandemic.

There are noticeable differences.

Each recruit is checked daily for symptoms of the virus. Instructors are wearing masks and surgical gloves and shouting into megaphones rather than recruits' faces. Only a limited number of SEAL trainees are allowed into classrooms at a time or during swims and runs.

No positive cases have been found so far at the training school for the SEAL recruits or candidates for special warfare boat operators, Randall said.

Anyone showing symptoms of the virus will be immediately pulled from training and evaluated by a medical team and placed into quarantine if deemed to be a potential case, Randall said.

The SEAL program tests participants' physical and psychological strength along with water competency and leadership skills.

It starts at the Naval station in Great Lakes, Ill., and typically ends 65 weeks later with graduation in Coronado, across the bay from San Diego. Each graduate is awarded the special warfare insignia known as the Trident that denotes membership in the elite

fighting force: The pin features a golden eagle wrapped around a U.S. Navy anchor, while clutching a three-prong trident, and a flintlock style pistol.

The program is so grueling that 75% of candidates drop out by the end of the first month in phase one. That's when trainees undergo what is known as Hell Week when recruits are pushed to the limit with little sleep.

Medical crews will be watching closely this year to ensure any coughs or other flu-like symptoms that often are produced by the strenuous workouts are not a sign of the coronavirus, Randall said.

Senator: Hazard pay for US troops fighting pandemic

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A proposed Senate bill would direct the Pentagon to provide tax-free hazardous duty pay to the more than 62,600 military personnel fighting on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, announced the proposed bill in a news release Tuesday and described it as a "small step to recognize the hazardous work they're doing during this pandemic and provide them the pay they deserve."

The legislation directs the Defense Department to provide at least \$150 in monthly tax-free hazardous duty pay — including back pay — for National Guard members, active-duty service members and medical corps professionals responding as part of coronavirus operations, according to the release from Ernst, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard.

As of Tuesday, about 46,800 National Guard members were deployed nationwide and about 13,500 military personnel were operating under the control of U.S. Northern Command, which is tasked with overseeing the military's coronavirus response efforts. That includes about 2,600 medical personnel and those service members conducting expeditionary medical operations across America at 22 hospitals, five alternate-care facilities, a hospital ship and a skilled nursing facility, according to the Pentagon's daily coronavirus update.

Guard missions began in various states as early as mid-March and have included testing the public at drive-through facilities, helping feed people through food banks and delivery programs and transporting protective equipment and supplies to where they are most needed. Some of them have come into closer contact with the virus by working in medical facilities and nursing homes.

"Whether it's delivering personal protective equipment, food, or medical supplies, our National Guardsmen and women have answered the call to help during [coronavirus]," said Ernst, who is chairwoman of the Senate Armed Services Committee's subpanel on emerging threats and capabilities. "As a former Iowa Army National Guardsman, I could not be more proud of their tireless and selfless efforts."

Nearly 890 National Guard members have tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the Pentagon. However, it's unclear how many of those troops infected were deployed at the time that they contracted the virus. In March, Army Capt. Douglas Hickok of the New Jersey National Guard was the first service member to die from the virus.

Ernst's home state has about 850 Guard troops activated. She said she planned to send a letter Tuesday to President Donald Trump asking that he grant Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' request to extend the federal status authorization through June 30.

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Tests: Scope of potential asymptomatic carriers first realized in Roosevelt outbreak

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Defense Department has placed its troops into four-tiered groups to prioritize those who must be tested. Esper said the Pentagon now needs to test 56,000 service members each week to achieve its goals, and those numbers are likely to rise in the future.

The Pentagon's first priority is to test its troops deemed tier 1 — those responsible for the nation's nuclear enterprise, including service members on submarines and bomber aircraft capable of deploying nuclear weapons and those responsible for U.S.-based ballistic missile silos. Those troops have all been tested, said Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

DOD is now working through

testing its entire second tier, consisting of those now deployed to support ongoing combat or other operations around the globe. The third tier in the Pentagon's coronavirus testing priorities are troops preparing to deploy or those preparing to return home.

The rest of the Pentagon's service members make up the largest group, tier 4, and its lowest priority for testing. Those are troops who are for the foreseeable future expected to remain at their home stations where they are confined largely due to a near-universal, stop-movement order for nonessential travel. It is those units within tier 4 that Esper wants to test randomly in a program that he has dubbed "sentinel testing."

"We say this group out here, we haven't seen anything from them, but let's test just in case,"

the defense secretary said Tuesday during a news briefing. "And we'll see if there's carriers out there, and it helps us sharpen our focus."

Esper did not say when such testing could begin, how often the Pentagon plans to conduct it or how widespread it would be. The defense secretary said the program is still being shaped as the Pentagon is working to build up its coronavirus-testing supply base while simultaneously expanding the number of troops it tests every day.

Pentagon officials first realized the scope of potential asymptomatic carriers within its ranks as it worked through testing the entire crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. In the month after its first cases were found within flight crews aboard the massive ship, more than 1,000

sailors contracted the virus — the majority without experiencing symptoms. The fast-spreading virus would sideline the ship in Guam, where its crew was offloaded and isolated in an effort to stop the spread. It marked by far the worst outbreak among the U.S. military to date, which includes one of the military's two coronavirus-linked fatalities.

The Navy and national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month launched a science project into the Roosevelt outbreak meant to find lessons from the spread of the virus aboard the ship where tight quarters make health protocols such as social distancing impossible. Officials said the probe could be used to help the military and civilian agencies respond to other outbreaks.

Esper said he could not predict

how long the pandemic would continue to affect the military. Last month, he extended his stop-movement orders through the end of June. He plans to review the status of the pandemic and his forces every 15 days to determine if the order can be canceled earlier or should be extended. The first such review will occur this week, he said.

For now, the military will continue to adhere to strict social distancing protocols when possible and the utilization of face coverings, he said.

"I think we'll be in a new type of normal for an amount of time," Esper said. "We're going to do everything possible to protect our people ... for the foreseeable future."

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Crisis exacts toll on people with disabilities

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Even before the coronavirus hit, cystic fibrosis meant that a cold could put Jacob Hansen in the hospital for weeks. He relies on hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to stay healthy because he also has cerebral palsy and can't easily wash his hands from his wheelchair, but these days, shelves are often bare.

For millions of disabled people and their families, the coronavirus crisis has piled on new difficulties and ramped up those that already existed. Many are immunocompromised and therefore more vulnerable to infection, but terrified of new virus-era hospital guidelines that they fear could put them at risk.

The leader of the U.N. said Wednesday that the 1 billion people living with disabilities around the world have been among the hardest-hit by the virus. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for them to have equal access to prevention and treatment of COVID-19 as the pandemic exposes and intensifies global inequalities.

In the U.S., a number of states are moving toward reopening businesses shuttered by the virus, but many people with disabilities are staying behind closed doors, worried that more interaction could lead to a wave of new infections.

"It's honestly kind of scary," said Hansen, who usually likes volunteering at the library and rubbing shoulders with superheroes at Comic-Con. "With my disability, even the common sniffles could put me in the hospital."

Hansen, 20, has done well with a new medication and was ready to start a grocery store job near his Utah home before the virus hit, but the infection risk has put a stop to that for now. He used to have help from health care



RICK BOWMER/AP

Jodi Hansen walks with her son Jacob Hansen near their home in Eagle Mountain, Utah.

workers with things like eating and bathing, but they had to stop coming after one had a potential exposure. The coronavirus test turned out to be negative, but they decided that the risk was too high. Jodi Hansen now does most of those things for her son, bringing drinks, scratching itches and bathing him, even though she has a bad shoulder and is working 40 hours a week from home as a transition coordinator for the Utah Parent Center.

"I've definitely had one full panic attack," said Jodi Hansen. "I look at my eyes in the morning. I've got bad undereye circles. I just don't sleep well at all."

Oklahoma mom Lisa DeBolt felt like she had to make a similar decision in caring for her son, Chandler, who also has cerebral palsy. While her husband works in facilities management for a church, she's helping with things like medication, hygiene and a feeding pump.

"We just have such a small little family to rely on right now," she said.

Both moms worry not only about how the virus might affect their sons, but also how a hospital stay might unfold.

They live in states where advocates have said that people with disabilities may end up at the back of the line for scarce resources like ventilators if hospitals become overwhelmed. Advocacy groups have filed complaints in several states, including Kansas, Tennessee, Washington state and Oklahoma over government guidelines which they have said wrongly disadvantage people with disabilities.

"We don't want people who are disabled to have to fear going to the doctor," said Shira Wachs, legal director at The Arc, the largest national organization advocating for people with intellectual disabilities.

Known as care-rationing or triage guidelines, the documents are meant to help doctors and nurses handle a nightmare scenario. The goal is save the largest number of lives and create a system to make data-based decisions, said Govind

Persad, who studies bioethics at the University of Denver's Strum College of Law.

"If you put people under time pressure making these decisions, it's more likely to lead to all kinds of biases," he said.

Each state's guidelines are a little different, but too many allow patients to be downgraded simply for things like needing help with daily activities or based on a perceived quality of life, Wachs said. Instead, her group and others, like Disability Law Centers in Utah and Oklahoma, have said that the guidelines should encourage doctors to focus on how much the patient can benefit from care.

Advocates had an early victory when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, after the first complaints were filed, sent out a guidance to all states warning that anti-discrimination laws still apply. And guidelines which said that people with intellectual or cognitive disabilities may not be good candidates for care in Alabama have been withdrawn.

Utah has also created a revised document, and in Washington state, health officials have acknowledged the concerns and sent out their own bulletin on non-discrimination. They're also talking with activists about equal access to care, including Ivanova Smith, chair of the group Self Advocates in Leadership.

She's on the autism spectrum, and even though her weakened lungs and a central nervous system make her vulnerable to the virus, sensory issues make it impossible for her to wear a mask even as more Americans don them to keep the virus from spreading as they begin venturing from their homes more often.

"It has given me anxiety, I've had to take more of my meds," she said. "COVID-19 has actually affected our community even harder, a lot of us have weaker immune systems and we really depend on that care ... This is causing an emotional, mental toll on our community."

For Smith, like many people closed in by the virus, staying in contact with family and friends through video calls has helped her get through it, but that doesn't work for everyone.

Josh Miller has intellectual disabilities and can't understand why he can't see grandparents and friends. But he also has vision problems, so staring at a screen is painful.

"It gets too overwhelming, he has migraines," said his mother, Jennifer Sollars-Miller.

If he ends up in the hospital, his mother is worried about virus-era rules that bar visitors to stop its spread. Josh also has Tourette's syndrome, so it's hard for her to communicate by himself, and he's prone to yelling inappropriate things without her nearby.

"We were not prepared for this," she said. "There are so many things you think about that could happen ... this is not something we ever imagined."

2 Russian doctors dead, 1 in ICU after mysterious accidents

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Two Russian doctors have died and one remains in the intensive care unit in serious condition after falling out of windows in hospitals under mysterious circumstances.

The tragic incidents last week made national headlines, with media reports saying that all three have come under pressure from their superiors over working conditions amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In recent weeks, medical workers all over Russia have decried shortages of protective equipment and questionable infection control procedures that turned dozens of hospitals into virus hotbeds, with hundreds of doctors and nurses contracting the virus. Many said that they have been threatened with dismissal or even prosecution for going public with

their grievances.

Dr. Alexander Shulepov, an ambulance doctor from the Vostochny region, 310 miles south of Moscow, fell out of a window in a hospital early Saturday where he was being treated for COVID-19, breaking several ribs and sustaining a skull fracture.

Shulepov, 37, was admitted to the hospital more than a week before the accident after testing positive for the virus. That day, colleague Alexander Kosyakov posted a video on social media of himself and Shulepov complaining about protective equipment shortages. In the video, Shulepov said that he was being forced to finish his ambulance shift despite being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Five days later, local health officials shared another video of Shulepov on social media in which he retracted his earlier

complaints, saying that he was just being emotional.

Five days later, Shulepov fell out of a two-story hospital building. The cause of the accident remains unknown. Some local media suggested that he was just attempting to smoke on a windowsill, while others reported that he was under a lot of pressure for publicly complaining.

Another doctor's window fall occurred in Siberia on April 25. Dr. Yelena Nepomnyashchaya, acting head of a hospital in Krasnoyarsk, a city in western Siberia, fell out of a window of her office on the fifth floor. Local media reported, citing anonymous sources, that the tragedy took place right after she had a conference call with regional health officials.

Media reports alleged that Nepomnyashchaya was arguing against re-purposing a ward

in her hospital for coronavirus patients because of severe shortages of protective equipment and trained medical personnel, but she failed to convince the officials. Krasnoyarsk health officials denied that the conference call took place. On Friday, Nepomnyashchaya died in intensive care.

Just the day before Nepomnyashchaya's fall, on April 24, another doctor sustained deadly injuries after falling out of a window in a hospital in Moscow. Dr. Natalya Lebedeva ran an ambulance station in the Star City, Russia's spaceflight training facility just outside Moscow, which reported several dozen coronavirus cases in late April. She was admitted to a hospital in southeast Moscow with suspected COVID-19. Lebedeva died immediately after the fall, with health officials

insisting that it was just a tragic accident. Some Russian media, however, claimed that Lebedeva was accused of protecting her staff from becoming infected and committed suicide because of it.

Russia has reported 166,000 infections and 1,537 virus deaths, but health officials in the West have described those numbers as laughably low.

There is no official data on how many Russian health workers have died working on the front lines of the pandemic and Russia's Health Ministry did not respond to numerous requests for comment by The Associated Press.

Last week, a group of Russian doctors compiled an online Memory List of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who died during the outbreak. The list currently has 111 names.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Here come tracing apps — and privacy trade-offs

BY MATT O'BRIEN
AND CHRISTINA LARSON
Associated Press

As governments around the world consider how to monitor new coronavirus outbreaks while reopening their societies, many are starting to bet on smartphone apps to help stanch the pandemic.

But their decisions on which technologies to use — and how far those allow authorities to peer into private lives — are highlighting some uncomfortable trade-offs between protecting privacy and public health.

"There are conflicting interests," said Tina White, a Stanford University researcher who first introduced a privacy-protecting approach in February. "Governments and public health (agencies) want to be able to track people" to minimize the spread of COVID-19, but people are less likely to download a voluntary app if it is intrusive, she said.

Containing infectious disease outbreaks boils down to a simple mantra: test, trace and isolate. Today, that means identifying people who test positive for the coronavirus, tracking down others they might have infected and preventing further spread by quarantining everyone who might be contagious.

That second step requires an army of health care workers to question coronavirus carriers about recent contacts so that those people can be tested and potentially isolated.

Smartphone apps could speed up that process by collecting data about your movements and alerting you if you've spent time near a confirmed coronavirus carrier. The more detailed that data, the more it could help regional governments identify and contain emerging disease "hot spots." But data collected by governments can also be abused by governments — or their private-sector partners.

Some countries and local governments are issuing voluntary government-designed apps that make information directly available to public health authorities.

In Australia, more than 3 million people have downloaded COVIDSafe, an app touted by the prime minister, who compared it to the ease of applying sunscreen and said that more app downloads would bring about a "more liberated economy and society."

Utah is the first U.S. state to embrace a similar approach with an app called Healthy Together, developed by a social media startup previously focused on helping young people hang out with nearby friends.

Both these apps record a digital trail of the strangers an individual has encountered. Utah's goes even further, using a device's location to help track which restaurants or stores a user has visited.

The app is "a tool to help jog the memory of the person who is positive so we can more readily identify where they've been and who they've been in contact with, if they choose to allow that," said Angela



ROYSTON CHAN/AP

The TraceTogether contact tracing app appears on a mobile phone in Singapore.

Dunn, Utah's state epidemiologist.

A competing approach under development by tech giants Apple and Google limits the information collected and anonymizes what it pulls in so that such personalized tracking isn't possible.

Apple and Google have pushed for public health agencies to adopt their privacy-oriented model, offering an app-building interface they said will work smoothly on billions of phones when the software

rolls out sometime in May. Germany and a growing number of European countries have aligned with that approach, while others, such as France and the UK, have argued for more government access to app data.

Most coronavirus-tracking apps rely on Bluetooth, a decades-old short-range wireless technology, to locate other phones nearby that are running the same app.

The Bluetooth apps keep a temporary record of the signals they encounter. If one person using the app is later confirmed to have COVID-19, public health authorities can use that stored data to identify and notify other people who may have been exposed.

Apple and Google said that apps built to their specifications will work across most iPhones and Android devices, eliminating compatibility problems. They have also forbidden governments to make their apps compulsory and are building in privacy protections to keep stored data out of government and corporate hands and ease concerns about surveillance.

For instance, these apps rely on encrypted "peer to peer" signals sent from phone to phone. These aren't stored in government databases and are designed to conceal individual identities and connections. Public health officials aren't even in the loop, as these apps would notify users directly of their possible exposure and urge them to get tested, be effective.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

11 states seek probe into meatpackers

By ROXANA HEGEMAN
Associated Press

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. — The attorneys general for 11 Midwestern states urged the Justice Department on Tuesday to pursue a federal investigation into market concentration and potential price-fixing by meatpackers in the cattle industry during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a letter to U.S. Attorney General William Barr, the state attorneys general noted that the domestic beef processing market is highly concentrated, with the four largest beef processors controlling 80 percent of the industry.

"Given the concentrated market structure of the beef industry, it may be particularly susceptible to market manipulation, particularly during times of food insecurity, such as the current COVID-19 crisis," they wrote.

Although their letter does not name them, the nation's largest processors are Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill and National Beef. The companies did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Mark Watne, the president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, said in a statement that in all the years they have called for stronger antitrust enforcement, they have rarely seen such obvious market abuses by the meatpacking industry.

"They're posting record profits, while ranchers are suffering significant market price losses," Watne said. "The situation definitely smells rotten, and it not only hurts ranchers, but consumers, too."

The state officials criticized the disparity in the price of live cattle and the retail cost of boxed beef that is sold to consumers, arguing that it shows the market lacks fair competition. Live cattle futures recently hit 18-year lows, while both the price of boxed beef and consumer demand remain healthy as consumers stockpile meat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The letter was signed by attorneys general in North Dakota, Missouri, Colorado, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.



Jeff Amy/AP

A sign at a Kroger store in Atlanta limits shoppers to two packages of chicken Tuesday due to supply concerns. Attorneys general in 11 states are urging an investigation into market concentration and potential price-fixing in the meatpacking industry.

The state attorneys general said they are eager to work with Barr on an examination of the competitive dynamics of the industry.

"Antitrust concerns about the cattle market are nothing new. Competition issues arising from agricultural markets existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic and will persist long after we defeat our current crisis," they wrote.

Although most enforcement actions are

civil, federal antitrust law is also criminal law and individuals and businesses that violate it may be prosecuted by the Justice Department, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

The state attorneys general wrote that if, after an investigation, there is no appropriate enforcement action that can be pursued, regulatory strategies should be explored to promote competition and protect consumers.

Trump tours mask factory, but doesn't wear mask

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Making himself Exhibit A for reopening the country, President Donald Trump visited an Arizona face mask factory, using the trip to demonstrate his determination to see an easing of stay-at-home orders even as the coronavirus remains a dire threat. Trump did not wear a mask despite guidelines saying they should be worn inside the factory at all times.

"The people of our country should think of themselves as warriors. We have to open," Trump declared Tuesday as he left Washington on a trip that was more about the journey than the destination.

In Arizona, Trump acknowledged the human cost of returning to normalcy.

"I'm not saying anything is perfect, and yes, and will some people be affected? Yes. Will some people be affected badly? Yes. But we have to get our country open and we



Evan Vucci/AP

President Donald Trump and Tony Stallings, right, vice president of integrated supply chain at Honeywell International Inc., listen Tuesday to a Honeywell worker at the plant in Phoenix that manufactures personal protective equipment.

have to get it open soon," he said.

Trump had said he would don a face mask if the factory was "a mask environment," but in the end he wore only safety goggles

during a tour of the Honeywell factory. Nearly all factory workers and members of the press as well as some White House staff and Secret Service agents wore masks.

Senior White House staff and Honeywell executives did not.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that all Americans wear cloth masks when they can't socially distance, such as in supermarkets, especially in places with high transmission rates. In the area where Trump spoke, a large video monitor listed safety guidelines, one of which said, "Please wear your mask at all times."

Trump's visit came as the White House said it hopes to wind down its coronavirus task force in the coming month as the president shifts his focus from battling an "invisible enemy" to rebooting the economy. He reversed course Wednesday, tweeting that the panel would continue indefinitely, shifting its focus to the economy.

The president spent about three hours in Phoenix, touring the Honeywell factory and then holding a roundtable on Native American issues. Aides said the trip would be worth the nearly eight hours

of flight time as a symbolic show that the nation is taking steps back to normalcy. The trip was also expected to be a marker of Trump's return to a regular travel schedule, as he hopes the nation, too, will begin to emerge from seven weeks of virus-imposed isolation.

Trump sees economic revival as a political imperative, as his allies have noted an erosion in support for the president in recent weeks. Republicans believe Trump's path to a second term depends on the public's perception of how quickly the economy rebounds from virus-related shutdowns.

Trump is seeking to pivot his focus away from the virus's spread and toward more familiar — and, aides hope, politically safer — ground: talking up the economy. As more states have begun to ease closure orders, despite warnings of potential spikes in new cases, Trump has been trying to highlight his administration's work in helping businesses and employees.

GOP wary as Pelosi, Dems push ahead on big virus bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even in absentia, House Democrats are seeking to drive the debate on the fifth coronavirus response bill, promising to produce a mega-package stuffed with Democratic priorities even as a chorus of GOP leaders voices hesitation about more spending.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi promises that the Democratic-controlled House will deliver legislation to

help state and local governments through the COVID-19 crisis, along with additional money for direct payments to individuals, unemployment insurance and a third installment of aid to small businesses. The amount of funding is to be determined.

The California Democrat is leading the way as Democrats fashion a sweeping package that is expected to be unveiled soon even as the House stays closed while the Senate is open in the

pandemic.

The contours of the next package are taking shape despite Republican resistance to more spending and a deepening debate over how best to confront the pandemic and its economic devastation. Some Republicans such as Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah and a group of GOP governors want to be more generous to states confronting furloughs and cuts to services as revenues plummet and unemployment insurance

and other costs spike.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday it's time to push "pause" on more aid legislation — even as he repeated a "red line" demand that any new aid package include liability protections for hospitals, health care providers and businesses operating and reopening.

McConnell and other Republicans, however, ducked the chance to endorse President Donald

Trump's demand for a cut to Social Security payroll taxes as a salve for the economy. Many lawmakers think the payroll tax cut is a bad idea because it only boosts paychecks but doesn't help people thrown out of a job.

"I've never thought that really would be very effective," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. She said she's working with a bipartisan, bicameral group on a state and local aid package.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Scientist: Warnings were ignored

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration failed to prepare for the onslaught of the coronavirus, then sought a quick fix by trying to rush an unproven drug to patients, a senior government scientist alleged in a whistleblower complaint.

Dr. Rick Bright, former director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, alleges he was reassigned to a lesser role because he resisted political pressure to allow widespread use of hydroxy-chloroquine, a malaria drug pushed by President Donald Trump. He said the Trump administration wanted to “flood” hot spots in New York and New Jersey with the drug.

“I witnessed government leadership rushing blindly into a potentially dangerous situation by bringing in a non-FDA approved chloroquine from Pakistan and India, from facilities that had never been approved by the FDA,” Bright said Tuesday on a call with reporters. “Their eagerness to push blindly forward without sufficient data to put this drug into the hands of Americans was alarming to me and my fellow scientists.”

Bright filed the complaint with the Office of Special Counsel, a government agency that investigates retaliation against federal employees who uncover problems. He wants his job back and a full investigation.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a terse statement saying that Bright was transferred to the National Institutes of Health to work on coronavirus testing, a crucial assignment. “We are deeply disappointed that he has not shown



Bright

up to work on behalf of the American people and lead on this critical endeavor,” HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley said.

According to HHS, Bright has not reported to his new post. But his spokeswoman said that Bright is on sick leave, following his doctor's orders, and that HHS has provided him no details on his new role.

Bright's complaint comes as the Trump administration faces criticism over its response to the pandemic, including testing and supplies of ventilators, masks and other equipment to stem the spread. There have been nearly 1.2 million confirmed cases in the United States and more than 70,000 deaths.

Bright said his superiors repeatedly rejected his warnings that the virus would spread in the U.S., missing an early opportunity to stock up on protective masks for first responders. He said he “acted with urgency” to address the growing spread of COVID-19 — the disease the virus causes — after the World Health Organization issued a warning in January.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., chair of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health, said she plans to hold a hearing into his complaint next week, and Bright's lawyers said he would testify. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, appearing on MSNBC, called the complaint “very damaging.”

In his complaint, Bright said he “encountered resistance from HHS leadership, including Secretary (Alex) Azar, who appeared intent on downplaying this catastrophic event.”

During a Feb. 23 meeting, Azar, as well as Bright's boss, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec, “responded with surprise at (Bright's) dire predictions and urgency, and asserted that the United States would be able to contain the virus and keep it out,” the whistleblower complaint said.

States with few virus cases get big share of relief aid

Associated Press

Alaska, Hawaii, Montana and Wyoming are not epicenters of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet these four states scored big this spring when Congress pumped out direct federal aid, while the two hardest-hit states, New York and New Jersey, got comparatively little given the vast numbers of cases and deaths they have seen.

An Associated Press analysis shows that some states with small populations like these took in an out-sized share of the \$150 billion in federal money that was designed to address coronavirus-related expenses, when measured by the number of positive tests for the COVID-19 disease.

Their haul ranged from \$2 million per positive test in Hawaii to nearly \$3.4 million per test in Alaska. In Wyoming, with less than 600 positive cases, the \$1.25 billion it received equates to 80% of its annual general state budget.

By comparison, New York and New Jersey received about \$24,000 and \$27,000, respectively, for each positive coronavirus test. Other states with high numbers of cases, including Massachusetts, Michigan and Illinois, received less than \$100,000 per case.

“If there's a fire, you don't

spray the whole neighborhood. You spray the house that's on fire,” said Bill Hammond, director of public health policy at the Empire Center for Public Policy, a nonpartisan government watchdog in New York. He said it doesn't make sense in this case to follow the normal political procedure of giving every state so much in the face of a public health crisis.

To be sure, the lowest population states often receive higher dollar amounts per capita when Congress doles out federal aid. That's due in part to political reality: Small states have the same number of U.S. senators as more populous ones, and those senators lobby hard for their states' interests. The awards in the relief act passed in late March were based on population, but with a catch: Every state was to receive at least \$1.25 billion, regardless of its size. Lawmakers said setting such a minimum was needed to reach a deal in a divided government.

In the coronavirus fight, the disproportionate share going to smaller states has consequences. States with high numbers of infections and deaths say they need that money for immediate expenses related to fighting an outbreak that threatened to overwhelm their hospital systems.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

2nd wave on many minds as lockdowns ease

Associated Press

ROME — From the marbled halls of Italy to the wheat fields of Kansas, health authorities are increasingly warning that the question isn't whether a second wave of coronavirus infections and deaths will hit, but when — and how badly.

In India, which partly relaxed its lockdown this week, health authorities scrambled Wednesday to contain an outbreak at a huge market. Hard-hit New York City shut down its subway system overnight for disinfection. Experts in Italy, which just began easing some restrictions, warned lawmakers that a new surge of virus infections and deaths is coming, and they urged intensified efforts to identify victims, monitor their symptoms and trace their contacts.

Germany warned of a second and even a third wave and threatened to re-impose virus restrictions if new cases can't be contained. German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Wednesday with the country's 16 governors to discuss further loosening restrictions that have crippled Europe's largest economy.

"There will be a second wave, but the problem is to which extent. Is it a small wave or a big wave? It's too early to say," said Olivier Schwartz, head of the virus and immunity unit at France's Pasteur Institute. France, which hasn't yet eased its lockdown, has worked up a "re-confinement plan" to ready for that second wave.

Many areas are still struggling with the first wave. Brazil for the first time locked down a large city, the capital of Maranhao state. Across the ocean, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa has shot up 42% in the past week. Infections were expected to surpass 50,000 there on Wednesday.

An Associated Press analysis, meanwhile, found that U.S. infection rates outside the New York City area are in fact rising, notably in rural areas. It found New York's progress against the virus was overshadowing increasing infections elsewhere.

"Make no mistakes: This virus is still circulating in our community, perhaps even more now than in previous weeks," said Linda Ochs, director of the Health Department in Shawnee County, Kan.

The virus is known to have infected more than 3.6 million and killed more than 251,000 people, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins that all experts agree is an undercount because of limited testing, differences in counting the dead and concealment by some governments.

The U.S. has seen over 71,000 deaths amid its 1.2 million confirmed infections, and Europe has endured over 144,000 reported deaths.

The researchers behind a widely cited model from the University of Washington nearly doubled their projection of deaths in the U.S. to around 134,000 through



CLAUDIO FURLAN, L'ESPRESSO/AP

A banner in Italian reads: "If we open we go bankrupt!" as restaurant and bar owners protest against limited reopening amid the coronavirus in Milan, Italy, on Wednesday.



GEMINI AMARASINGHE/AP

People from the low-income neighborhood of Klong Toey wait to get tested for the coronavirus in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday.

early August, in large part because of the easing of state stay-at-home restrictions.

President Donald Trump, with his eye on being reelected in November, is pushing hard to ease the social-distancing orders and resuscitate the U.S. economy, which has seen over 30 million workers lose their jobs in less than two months. Though the White House had signaled Tuesday that it would begin winding down the country's coronavirus task force, Trump tweeted Wednesday that it would continue "indefinitely with its focus on SAFETY & OPENING UP OUR COUNTRY AGAIN."

A century ago, the Spanish flu epidemic's second wave was far

deadlier than its first, in part because authorities allowed mass gatherings from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

As Italy's lockdown eased this week, Dr. Silvio Brusaporco, president of the Superior Institute of Health, urged "a huge investment" of resources to train medical personnel to monitor possible new cases. He said tracing apps — which are being built by dozens of countries and companies — aren't enough to manage future waves of infection.

"We are not out of the epidemic. We are still in it. I don't want people to think there's no more risk and we go back to normal," said Dr. Giovanni Rezza, head of the institute's infectious-disease

department.

In Germany, authorities may reimpose restrictions on any county that reports 50 new cases for every 100,000 inhabitants within the past week.

Lothar Wieler, head of Germany's national disease control center, said scientists "know with great certainty that there will be a second wave" of infections but said Germany is well-prepared to deal with it. The country has been hailed for testing widely and has had one-fourth the number of deaths in Italy or Britain, which have smaller populations.

Britain has begun recruiting 18,000 people to trace contacts of those infected.

South Africa, which has years of experience tracking HIV and other infections, has more than 30,000 experienced community tracers at work. Turkey has 5,800 teams of contact tracers who have tracked down and tested nearly half a million people.

India was concentrated on the immediate drama around the market in the southern city of Chennai, which is now tied to at least 1,000 virus cases. An additional 7,000 people connected to the now-shuttered Koyambudur market are being traced and quarantined. Experts are worried about a health catastrophe in a country of 1.3 billion people in a system with an already stressed medical system.

New confirmed daily infections in the U.S. exceed 20,000, and deaths per day are well over 1,000, according to the Johns Hopkins tally. And public health officials warn that the failure to lower the infection rate could lead to many

Dallas salon owner jailed

Associated Press

DALLAS — A hair salon owner in Texas was ordered to spend a week in jail after she continued to operate her business despite restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Shelley Luther was booked in the Dallas County jail on Tuesday afternoon following a video hearing, during which she was found in contempt of court. The hearing occurred as Gov. Greg Abbott relaxed more restrictions statewide, allowing barbershops and hair salons to reopen Friday.

Last month, Luther was issued a citation for keeping open her Dallas salon despite state and local directives that kept nonessential businesses closed.

In Tuesday's hearing, Luther said she kept the salon open because she needed the money.

"I couldn't feed my family, and my stylists couldn't feed their families," Luther testified, saying she had applied for a federal loan but didn't receive it until Sunday.

Dallas County Judge Eric Moye said during Tuesday's hearing that he would consider levying a fine instead of jail time if Luther would apologize and not reopen until she was allowed to do so. Luther refused.

"Feeding my kids is not selfish," she told Moye. "If you think the law is more important than kids getting fed, then please go ahead with your decision, but I am not going to shut the salon."

more deaths — perhaps tens of thousands — as people venture out and businesses reopen.

Trump acknowledged the toll but argued that keeping the U.S. economy closed carries deadly costs of its own, such as drug abuse and suicides.

"I'm not saying anything is perfect, and yes, will some people be affected? Yes. Will some people be affected badly? Yes. But we have to get our country open and we have to get it open soon," he said during a visit to Arizona in which he did not wear a face mask.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

NYC subways shut down for disinfecting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City's subway system went silent in the early morning hours of Wednesday, as part of a plan for the normally round-the-clock system to shut down for train cleaning.

The trains, which had been running on a reduced schedule since late March, are now going to be stopped from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. each day.

Police officers escorted people out of Brooklyn's Coney Island station, the end of the line for several trains, and told them they would have to board buses to get to their destinations. Cleaners carrying bottles of bleach then boarded the trains.

Fewer trains had been running in the overnight hours anyway, but the shutdown allows for daily cleanings and for city workers to move homeless people who have been more visible in subway cars during the coronavirus.

California

SACRAMENTO — California Gov. Gavin Newsom scolded two rural counties Tuesday for allowing some businesses to reopen in defiance of his statewide coronavirus restrictions, calling it a "big mistake" and saying that they are "putting their public at risk."

Restaurants, hair salons and many other businesses opened Monday in Yuba and Sutter counties, about 40 miles north of Sacramento. A revised public health order in the counties allows businesses to reopen but requires them to enforce social distancing and other restrictions. The Yuba Sutter Mall planned to reopen Wednesday.

The two counties together have had 44 confirmed coronavirus cases out of a combined population of just over 175,000 people, and no one is now hospitalized there with the virus, according to state data.

Sutter County Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer said that he was "irritated" by Newsom's comments, saying that the two counties were following the directives of their shared public health officer. He said that he will urge county officials to keep allowing businesses that open in defiance of Newsom's order.

Colorado

DENVER — Denver Mayor Michael Hancock said Tuesday that the city's stay-at-home order will expire at the end of the week,

allowing an array of businesses to reopen with strict social distancing rules.

Beginning Saturday, offices and retail stores can reopen with half of their usual staff, and businesses like hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors and pet groomers can reopen as long as they are by appointment only. Some businesses, like dine-in restaurants, bars, movie theaters and gyms, will have to remain closed, and gatherings of more than 10 people will be prohibited through May 26.

On Wednesday, Denver will join a handful of cities requiring people to wear a face covering in certain public areas, including at businesses, while waiting for and riding public transportation, as well as at health care facilities and dentist offices.

Denver has seen a decline in hospital patients with the coronavirus in the last two weeks, but city and county health officials said that they still need to increase testing and hire more contact tracers to see how the disease spreads.

Iowa

IOWA CITY — Nearly 1,400 workers at three Tyson Foods pork processing plants in Iowa have tested positive for the coronavirus, the state reported Tuesday, as deaths surged to a new daily high.

The Iowa Department of Public Health revealed that the state's largest outbreak to date has been at the Tyson plant in Perry, a town in central Iowa. There, 730 workers were confirmed to have the virus, a stunning 58% of those tested, the department said.

The Tyson plant in Waterloo has had 444 workers test positive, and its Columbus Junction plant has had 221 confirmed infections, the department said.

The department said that 258 workers at a National Beef plant in Tama tested positive, as did another 131 employees of a Newton wind turbine blade manufacturer.

Michigan

WARREN — Michigan communities saw record turnout for local elections Tuesday, as voters participated in largely mail-based contests that could be a blueprint for the presidential battleground in November.

In a first, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's office automatically sent absentee ballot appli-



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

An MT worker works on a train for the disinfecting operations at the Coney Island Stillwell Avenue Terminal on Tuesday in Brooklyn, N.Y.

cations to all 740,000 registered voters in roughly 50 municipalities — about 10% of the electorate — to discourage in-person voting in a state where nearly 4,200 people have died from coronavirus complications. Turnout was projected to be at least 22%, nearly double the average for May elections.

Each jurisdiction had at least one place for in-person voting, though only about 850 people had done so as of late afternoon. Absentee ballots — roughly 180,000 had been returned by 6:30 p.m. — accounted for 98% of the vote.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in March used her emergency powers to expand absentee voting by letting the state mail ballot applications with postage-paid return envelopes to every voter in 53 counties across 33 counties.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper agreed on Tuesday to ease North Carolina's stay-at-home order, saying that COVID-19 cases are generally stable and testing, tracing and health care supplies are improving enough to warrant increased commerce and movement.

A new executive order taking effect Friday afternoon that opens many more businesses will replace a more restrictive mandate that Cooper had issued starting March 30. The Democratic governor began to loosen the number of activities that are no longer prohibited later than many other Southern chief executives.

Caution was the key word for Cooper, even as a conservative-leaning group has held weekly demonstrations near the Executive Mansion demanding he cancel his stay-at-home order completely in the name of freedom and reopening the economy. The state has received more than 1 million unemployment benefit claims since mid-March. Cooper said that health officials are driving where decisions are made, followed by input from employers.

Nevada

RENO — Democrats have dropped efforts to block the state's mail-in primary election on June 9 after Clark County agreed to provide more in-person polling places in Las Vegas and election officials agreed to other changes intended to protect the rights of elderly and disadvantaged voters.

Lawyers for Nevada's Democratic Party, the Democratic National Committee and congressional campaign committee were scheduled to go before a state judge in Carson City on Thursday via telephone in search of an injunction expanding the number of polling places and mandating mailing of ballots to all registered voters.

The primary is expected to be conducted almost entirely by mail for the first time in Nevada in an effort to guard against the spread of COVID-19. Early voting begins May 23.

Last week, a federal judge in Reno refused a conservative voting rights group's request to block the primary based on arguments that the secretary of state didn't have the authority to change the election rules. They also said that mail-in ballots are more vulnerable to fraud.

U.S. District Judge Miranda D. Disagree. She cited the unusual circumstances brought on by the pandemic and noted that five states in the West currently conduct elections entirely by mail — Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah and Hawaii.

Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania reported another 554 deaths from the coronavirus to pass 3,000 total, while Gov. Tom Wolf said Tuesday that he is not committing to a particular schedule to lift stay-at-home pandemic restrictions in the state's counties or regions.

The large number of new deaths reported Tuesday by the state Department of Health were

spread out over the previous two weeks, the agency said, as it reconciles its figures with deaths being reported by local agencies or hospitals.

Still, it was as stark a figure as the state has reported since the first case of the new coronavirus was detected in Pennsylvania in early March. It comes as the growth in cases appeared to slow down in many parts of Pennsylvania and Wolf's administration moves to lighten its restrictions on movement and business activity.

Texas

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas kept charging ahead with reopening Tuesday, as Republican Gov. Greg Abbott gave hair salons permission to return to business alongside restaurants and retailers and defended the pace of rebooting one of the nation's biggest states as experts have warned that going too fast could result in new outbreaks.

In letting barbershops and hair salons open starting Friday, Abbott appeared to be moving faster than he suggested even a week ago when he allowed stay-at-home-orders in Texas to expire. Restaurants and retailers in Texas began reopening under limited capacity Friday, but that has not satisfied even some GOP lawmakers who want a far quicker reopening of the state.

Two Republican state lawmakers Tuesday got haircuts at a barbershop outside Houston in defiance of Abbott's orders, saying that they were supporting business owners who need to get back to work. Last week, Abbott had mentioned mid-May as a target for hair salons to open, along with bars and gyms.

He fired back at criticism over whether Texas is moving too fast during a news conference at the Texas Capitol, at one point rattling off a list of experts he said he has consulted with in making decisions, including Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force.

NATION

Nominee vows not to politicize intelligence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. John Ratcliffe, President Donald Trump's pick to be the nation's top intelligence official, was nothing if not consistent as he told lawmakers a dozen or so times that he wouldn't allow politics to color information he took to the president.

The senators kept asking anyway as Trump's firing or forcing out of at least seven top U.S. intelligence officials since last summer overshadowed the Texas Republican's confirmation hearing Tuesday.

The forced departures have left the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which oversees the nation's 16 spy agencies, without a single Senate-confirmed leader as the nation faces the COVID-19 pandemic, threats from Iran and North Korea, Russian disinformation campaigns to interfere in the U.S. elections and rising competition from China. The turmoil has deepened speculation that the president is trying to place loyalists in charge of the nation's intelligence apparatus.

The senators' questions reflected that skepticism: Would you communicate intelligence to Trump even if you knew the president strongly disagreed with it?

"Of course," Ratcliffe replied.

Even if it put your job in jeopardy?

"Of course."

Ratcliffe added: "Anyone's views on what they want the intelligence to be will never impact the intelligence that I deliver. Never."

Variations of the question kept coming, but Ratcliffe offered the same answer: "No."

"I will be entirely apolitical as the director of national intelligence," he said, adding that he had an apolitical job as a U.S. attorney and "kept both parties out of everything that I did."

Ratcliffe's critics aren't convinced and worry he's beholden to Trump. They point to his recent defense of the president during the Russia investigations and Trump's impeachment and argue that he doesn't have enough intelligence experience for the job. Before being elected to Congress in 2014, Ratcliffe was mayor of Heath, Texas, and a U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Texas.

"Jesus. He is going to be the DNI," tweet-



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-Texas, center, bumps elbows to greet Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Vice Chairman Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., left, before his nomination hearing in Washington on Tuesday.

ed Mike Hayden, a former director of the CIA and the National Security Agency who served in both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Trump first nominated Ratcliffe for the job nine months ago, but Ratcliffe withdrew after doubts about his experience were raised. Trump unexpectedly nominated him again in February and his chances at securing the job appear better, although confirmation is not assured.

"His knowledge of cybersecurity is particularly important given the challenges our country faces," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who joined fellow Republicans as well as Democrats in pressing Ratcliffe to deliver objective intelligence to the president regardless of Trump's views.

He has the backing of former Attorney General John Ashcroft and other fellow Republicans, including Texas Rep. Will Hurd, a former undercover officer for the CIA, who said Ratcliffe has more than 15 years of experience dealing with national security-related issues.

Liberal-leaning lawmakers expressed

concern that Trump nominated Ratcliffe to gain an upper hand on the typically non-partisan intelligence network.

"I find it very disturbing," Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said in an interview last week. "It appears that the president wants to shape the intelligence community. My concern is that this is a politicizing of the intelligence community, which would be a huge mistake for the president himself."

"You want intelligence to be truthful and unvarnished and as straightforward as possible — not what you want to hear, not what supports your policy positions," he said. "Because if you don't get that kind of information, you're liable to make catastrophic mistakes.... Our foreign policy disasters of the last 50 years often have been preceded by cooked intelligence."

Sen. Mark Warner, the Virginia Democrat who is vice chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, specifically accused Trump of not wanting to hear any intelligence that does not comport with his views. The White House has disputed that allegation in the past.



Ratcliffe testifies before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"Unfortunately, what we have seen from the president, ever since he came into office, is an unrelenting and undeserved political attack upon the professional women and men of our intelligence agencies," Warner said. "This is not because our intelligence community is deserving of these attacks. Nor are they at the heart of some 'deep state' conspiracy to undermine our political leaders."

Warner listed intelligence officials who have been sidelined: former national intelligence director Dan Coats and his deputy, Sue Gordon; former acting director of the National Counterterrorism Center Russ Travers and his deputy, Peter Hall; former acting national intelligence director Joseph Maguire and his deputy, Andrew Hallman; and Michael Atkinson, the former watchdog of the intelligence community who first revealed a whistleblower complaint last fall that led to Trump's impeachment.

The ODNI currently is led by an acting director, Richard Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany, who has a background in communications and is seen as a loyalist to Trump. As acting director, Grenell has made additional personnel moves and ordered a review of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that Trump critics fear is a house-cleaning and something that an "acting" official shouldn't be allowed to undertake.

Some intelligence professionals disagree that Grenell is trying to purge the agencies of qualified individuals, saying that in most cases the replacements named for those ousted have been experienced national security professionals.

Ginsburg hospitalized with infection

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was hospitalized Tuesday with an infection caused by a gallstone, but planned to take part in the court's arguments by telephone Wednesday, the Supreme Court said.

The 87-year-old justice underwent non-surgical treatment for what the court described as acute cholecystitis, a benign gallbladder condition, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

She is resting comfortably and expects to be in the hospital for a day or two, the court said.

Ginsburg took part in the court's telephone arguments Monday and Tuesday. She initially sought medical care Monday, when the



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks in Washington in February.

gallstone was first diagnosed.

She has been treated four times for cancer, most recently in August, when she underwent radiation for a tumor on her pancreas.

Her most recent hospital stay was in November, when she spent two nights at Johns Hopkins Hospital with a likely infection after suffering from chills and fever.

Ginsburg has said she would like to serve until she's 90, if her health allows.

Judge rules to restore Democratic presidential primary in New York

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Democratic presidential primary must take place June 23 because canceling it would be unconstitutional and deprive withdrawn presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Andrew Yang of proper representation at the Democratic convention, a judge ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres in Manhattan ruled after lawyers for Sanders and Yang argued Monday that they otherwise would be harmed irreparably.

The judge said there was enough time before the primary to plan how to carry it out safely. She acknowledged that the reason it was canceled — to prevent the spread of COVID-19 — was an

important state interest but said she was unconvinced it justified infringing rights, especially since every voter can use an absentee ballot.

She noted that no other state had canceled its primary.

Torres wrote that removing presidential contenders from the primary ballot deprived them of votes for the Democratic Party's nomination.

She said it also diminished the delegates' influence on the party's platform and their ability to react to unexpected convention developments.

It also "deprived Democratic voters of the opportunity to elect delegates who could push their point of view in that forum," she said. "The loss of these First Amendment rights is a heavy

hardship."

The Democratic members of the State's Board of Elections voted last week to cancel the presidential primary even though New York still planned to hold its congressional and state-level primaries June 23.

They cited fears the coronavirus could spread among an extra 1.5 million voters who would show up for an election in which former Vice President Joe Biden already has been endorsed by the major candidates he had faced.

The fact that the primary was going to occur on June 23 anyway because of other contested races, including a number of congressional primaries, led Torres to question on Monday why the primary wasn't canceled entirely if safety was such a concern.

WORLD

Iran's president says end to arms embargo is a 'right'

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The Iranian president said Wednesday that lifting a United Nations arms embargo on Tehran would be an "obvious right" and added a veiled warning of unspecified steps Iran could take if the embargo is extended, as the United States wants.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks were in response to a push by the U.S., which last month circulated a draft U.N. resolution that would indefinitely extend the embargo set to expire in October. Such a move is almost certain to spark opposition from Russia, which has made no secret of its desire to resume conventional weapons sales to Tehran.

"Iran considers the lifting of the arms embargo an obvious right," Rouhani said during a

Cabinet meeting broadcast live on state TV.

A U.N. Security Council resolution that endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers envisages an end to the embargo five years after the deal. President Donald Trump pulled America out of the deal in 2018 and imposed harsher sanctions on Iran.

Since Iran is admittedly no longer complying with several elements of the nuclear deal, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.S. administration believes it has a case to make that the embargo should not be lifted.

"Iran will not accept violation of the ... (U.N.) resolution under any circumstances," Rouhani said. He said that extending the embargo would lead to "serious consequence and a historic failure" for the West.



SERGEI GRITS/AP

Hosed down

Servicemen of the Belarus Ministry of Defence wearing protective gear spray disinfectant on each other after disinfecting a hospital Tuesday in Minsk, Belarus. Despite the World Health Organization's call for Belarus to ban public events as coronavirus cases rise sharply, President Alexander Lukashenko said that the country will go ahead with a parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Iraqi military says 3 rockets strike near Baghdad airport; no casualties

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three Katyusha rockets struck near the military sector of the Baghdad airport early Wednesday but caused no casualties, the Iraqi military said.

The attack came hours ahead of a parliament session that will vote on the proposed government

of the latest prime minister-designate, Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

Iraqi security forces later discovered the launching pad for the rockets in the al-Barkiya area, west of Baghdad. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

An Iraqi security official, speaking on condition of ano-

nymity in line with regulations, said that one of the rockets struck close to Iraqi forces at the military airport, another near Camp Cropper, once a U.S. detention facility, and the last near to where U.S. forces are stationed at the base. Saddam Hussein was held in Camp Cropper prison prior to his execution.

The U.S. has accused Iran-backed militias of carrying out such attacks in the past. Several attacks targeted U.S. interests early in March, including three military bases known to house U.S. troops. The U.S.-led coalition has withdrawn from several bases across Iraq in a planned drawdown.

The attack is the first after a brief lull since March 26, when rockets hit near the Baghdad Operations Command, a center that coordinates Iraq's police and military forces.

The command is a few hundred yards from the U.S. Embassy, which has also been a frequent target of rocket attacks.



SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market




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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Shopper wore KKK hood at store

CA SAN DIEGO — Authorities are looking into whether a man who they say wore a Ku Klux Klan hood while grocery shopping in a San Diego suburb could face criminal charges, the sheriff's department said.

The unidentified man was photographed with the white hood while pushing a grocery cart at the store in the town of Santee a day after the county required people to wear masks outside to slow the spread of the coronavirus, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Store clerks asked him to take off the hood or leave the store, according to The San Diego Union-Tribune. He removed the tall, pointed hood that had two small eye holes cut into it, paid for his groceries and left.

Deputies are investigating to see if he could be charged with a possible hate crime, the department said.

Fowl play: Police search for 'aggressive chicken'

LA WALKER — Police are searching for an "aggressive chicken" accused of engaging in fowl play at a Louisiana bank.

The Walker Police Department responded to a complaint about the brazen animal, the agency said in a social media post.

Witnesses told police the chicken had been spotted at the bank multiple times, approaching patrons at the ATM, chasing customers and even attempting to climb into cars in the drive-thru, according to the department's post.

Officials said officers responded to the bank within a few minutes of the call, but found the pesky poultry had already escaped.

Officials warn of disease killing off rabbits

AZ LAKE HAVASU CITY — Arizona wildlife officials are issuing a warning about the potential spread of a virus that kills rabbits.

The Today's News-Herald reported that state Game and Fish Department veterinarians are watching for cases of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 — dubbed RHDV2.

For rabbits, the disease can be a painful and sudden killer. Experts say rabbits afflicted with an acute form of it die within 12 to 36 hours from the onset of a fever. Symptoms include lethargy, weight loss and jaundice. RHDV2 causes infected cottontail rabbits to bleed from their nose and mouth because of internal hemorrhaging.

Police: Woman wanted to get close to alligator

SC KIAWAH ISLAND — A woman killed by an alligator at a South Carolina pond told a friend she wanted to get close to the animal and didn't scream as it attacked her and



Eric Gay/AP

Signs of the times

Workers change signage Monday to reflect positive messages on the marquee at the Quarry Cinema, which is set to reopen in June, in San Antonio, Texas. Texas' stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic have expired and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has eased restrictions on many businesses including theaters.

dragged her into the water, according to a police report.

Cynthia Covert, 58, died in the attack on Kiawah Island, Charleston County deputies said.

A deputy had to shoot and kill the alligator to get Covert away from the animal, according to the police report.

The woman's husband and another man tried beating the alligator with shovels, but the animal swam deeper, the police report said.

When deputies arrived, the alligator kept surfacing with Covert and going under. One officer was able to shoot the animal as it surfaced again, police said.

Police find dead dogs, cats in shelter's freezer

KY WEBBVILLE — Police seized 90 dogs from a no-kill animal shelter in Kentucky due to its allegedly poor conditions, and charged its owner after dead cats and dogs were found in the facility's freezer.

The dogs were taken because of "poor living conditions" at the Trixie Foundation's shelter, Kentucky State police said in a news release reported by news outlets.

Police obtained a search warrant after receiving complaints about the shelter in April, the Herald-Ledger reported.

Shelter owner Randy Skaggs, who was scheduled to stand trial this June on misdemeanor animal cruelty charges from 2018,

THE CENSUS

5 The age of a driver pulled over in Ogden, Utah, by a Utah Highway Patrol trooper because the vehicle was swerving so badly. Trooper Rich Morgan thought the driver needed medical attention. He said Adrian Zamarripa, who turns 6 next month, did not respond to his lights, but pulled over when he hit his siren. Morgan said the boy told him he was going to his sister's house — in California. The boy told another trooper that he wanted to buy a Lamborghini when he got there and flashed open his wallet showing his cash to purchase his dream car: \$3. A local Lamborghini owner treated Adrian to a ride.

said he provides medical care when the animals need it.

Skaggs, 68, now faces 12 additional counts, of improper disposal.

Deputy accused of taking money orders on patrol

FL PENSACOLA — A deputy in Florida is accused of cashing out blank money orders from a car he pulled over while on patrol.

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office received a complaint from a woman who said the money orders were in the car her boyfriend was driving when he was arrested on outstanding warrants by Deputy William Christopher Henley, news outlets reported.

The woman said she called Western Union to find out about the money orders after the arrest, and was informed they were already cashed out by Henley, Escambia County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Amber Southard told the Pensacola News Journal.

Henley, 37, was booked into

county jail with no bond and on multiple charges, including burglary and fraud.

Billboard vandalized with 'Cancel Rent' graffiti

MD BALTIMORE — A billboard that features Baltimore's mayor was vandalized with the words "Cancel Rent" as well as a vulgarity directed at the police.

The Baltimore Sun reported that the vandalized billboard follows in the wake of many people losing their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic.

Many people have called for rent and mortgage payments to be suspended. The billboard graffiti also touched on tensions in the city with law enforcement.

Officials: Man set on fire while using blow torch

LA HARVEY — A Louisiana man was hospitalized after accidentally setting

himself on fire from the waist up while using a blow torch to repair his truck.

The man was working under the chassis of his 18-wheeler truck when the blow torch ignited, Harvey Volunteer Fire Company 2 Captain Mike McAuliffe told the Times-Picayune/New Orleans Advocate.

The 58-year-old victim became covered in flames above his waist and ran 200 feet from his repair yard to a nearby business to call for help.

He was taken to a New Orleans hospital after people in that business extinguished the fire and called 911.

Dust storm causes multiple crash

WI PLAINFIELD — A dust storm caused a crash involving about two dozen vehicles on Interstate 39 in central Wisconsin last weekend, the Wisconsin State Patrol said.

The patrol told WKOW-TV 26 vehicles were involved in the pileup on southbound I-39 near Plainfield. In addition, there were four separate crashes in the northbound lanes.

The patrol said several injuries were reported, but none are life-threatening.

Authorities said the crashes likely were caused by dust blowing in the air.

From wire reports

FACES

Selena Gomez
cooks up show
for HBO Max

Associated Press

Selena Gomez will display her quarantine cooking skills in a 10-episode series for the upcoming streaming service HBO Max.

The actress and singer, who said she's been spending more time in the kitchen during the coronavirus pandemic, also is an executive producer for the untitled project, HBO Max said Tuesday.

"I've always been very vocal about my love of food. I think I've been asked hundreds of times in interviews if I had another career, what would I do and I've answered that it would be fun to be a chef," Gomez said in a statement. "I definitely don't have the formal training though! Like many of us while being home, I find myself cooking more and experimenting in the kitchen."

She will be joined remotely in each episode by a different master chef to cook and chat about kitchen tips. Food charities will be highlighted by the show, HBO Max said.

HBO Max is scheduled to debut May 27, with Gomez's series set to air this summer. A release date wasn't announced.



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

HBO Max will stream a series starring Selena Gomez in which the singer and actress cooks and discusses kitchen tips with chefs who join her remotely.

HGTV, Food Network
see boost in ratings
during stay-at-homes

Americans stuck at home staring at fading furniture and wondering what to cook for dinner have been a boon for HGTV and the Food Network.

The Food Network's overall ratings in April were up 25 percent over the same month last year, while HGTV was up 22 percent, the Nielsen company said.

The TV networks have adjusted programming in reaction to coronavirus shutdowns with more in the works.

"People are gravitating to our networks and talent because we provide more than entertainment right now," said Kathleen Pinch, chief lifestyle brand officer for the Discovery-owned networks.

From The Associated Press

Name
check

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, INVISION/AP

When Rich Brian first started rapping, he was just a teen looking to make waves on SoundCloud. He had huge viral success with a song called "Dat \$tick," but also found controversy with a troubling moniker and a persona that some felt mocked hip-hop culture. A few years later, he's looking to prove he belongs in the rap world and has gained the respect of some key rap figures.

Asian rapper Rich Brian proving he belongs in hip-hop

By JUWON PARK

Associated Press

When Brian Imanuel was a budding teen rapper in Jakarta, Indonesia, he wanted a rap name that would go well with a song that he was putting out on SoundCloud.

He felt his own name, Brian Imanuel Soewarno, was too long, but a suggestion by his friend caught his eye: "Rich Chigga."

As Rich Chigga — a portmanteau of Chinese and a racial slur — he scored a hit and became a viral sensation with the song "Dat \$tick," garnering millions of plays on platforms like SoundCloud and YouTube and support from rap luminaries like Ghostface Killah. But with his name, lyrics that included the N-word and an accompanying video that played on gangsta rap stereotypes, he also drew some anger.

"When you start your music video with a parody of hip-hop culture, caricaturing black people, it's not gonna go over well," Salima Koroma, director of "Bad Rap," a documentary about Asian-American rappers, said.

"There were a lot of people that I feel like didn't even want to listen to the music just because of the name," Imanuel told The Associated Press during an interview at a studio in Los Angeles.

Today, the 20-year-old goes by the name Rich Brian and is showing that he not only has a genuine love for hip-hop culture, but also that he belongs. He became the first Asian rapper to top the iTunes hip-hop chart in 2018 with his album "Amen," with guest appearances by the likes of Offset and others, and with last year's "Sailor," collaborated with RZA and other key names in hip-hop.

Last month, he released a new song, "Ball," and is hoping to grow his momentum, though planned performances at major festivals like Coachella have been put on hold after concerts were shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm very inspired by this (hip-hop), and this is what makes me happy," he said. "I listened to hip-hop so much ... I feel like this is as long as you know, you pay homage to it, and you know, as long as you respect it, it's like, I think it's cool to show that appreciation."

Since his viral hit in 2016, Imanuel has racked up billions of views on YouTube, and released two studio albums. "Sailor" debuted at the No. 62 spot on the Billboard 200 albums chart last year.

Immanuel isn't huge in the United States, but he's making inroads. He spends a lot of time in Los Angeles, thanks to Sean Miyashiro, the founder of the Asian-centric label 88rising. The L.A. native flew Imanuel to the U.S., getting permission from the rapper's parents, after seeing "Dat \$tick" and becoming mesmerized.

"The look was crazy. And he could rap," Miyashiro, a former concert promoter, told the AP. But Miyashiro knew Imanuel had several obstacles to finding success here, chief among them his problematic rap name and the claims of cultural appropriation that dogged him.

He's not the only Asian star to face such accusations — K-pop bands like Big Bang and Chinese artist Kris Wu are among many. Even Awkwafina, the Asian-American star who started off as a rapper before finding success as an actress in

"Crazy Rich Asians" and last year's acclaimed "Farewell," has been criticized for speaking in "blaccent" and acting with exaggerated mannerisms that some feel play off black stereotypes.

"A lot of Asian rappers do appropriate, to be honest. And there's a lot of appropriation based and forth," Miyashiro said.

Miyashiro added that virtually anyone anywhere can be inspired by hip-hop, but the key is to respect and appreciate its history and message. To that end, Imanuel changed his name in 2018 to Rich Brian and apologized for his mistakes on social media.

The growth was clear on last year's "Sailor." Imanuel called it his "personal journey" — with stories of his move across the continent and life away from home.

Immanuel, who has collaborated with artists ranging from K-pop stars to Chinese and American rappers, said his goal is to focus on the unique side of himself and inspire others to do the same. His message is already engraved on the song "Kids" — "Tell these Asian kids they could do what they want. Might steal that mic at the Grammys just to say we won. That everyone can make it, don't matter where you from."

Rich Brian
Rapper who formerly performed as Rich Chigga

Radcliffe, Beckham
among Harry Potter
readers in videos

Celebrities including Daniel Radcliffe, David Beckham and Dakota Fanning will take part in chapter-by-chapter readings of J.K. Rowling's first Harry Potter book.

Rowling's Wizarding World announced Tuesday on Twitter that all 17 chapters of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will be read in a series of free videos and audio recordings. The readings of the beloved fantasy story is part of the Harry Potter at Home series.

Stephen Fry, Claudia Kim, Noma Dumezweni and Eddie Redmayne are expected to narrate chapters.

Radcliffe, who starred as Harry Potter in the films, kicked off the series. He read the first chapter "The Boy Who Lived," which is posted on harrypotterathome.com.

Other videos will be posted weekly on the website. Audio-only versions will be available for free on Spotify.

Producer's win against
Jackson overturned

A California appeals court on Tuesday overturned most of a 2017 jury verdict awarding Quincy Jones \$9.4 million in royalties and fees from the Michael Jackson estate over the use of Jones' produced Jackson hits in the concert film "This Is It" and two Cirque du Soleil shows.

The state's 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled that the jury misinterpreted a contract that was the judge's job to interpret anyway. It took away \$6.9 million that jurors had said MJJ Productions owed Jones, 87, for his work on "Billie Jean," "Thriller," and more of Jackson's biggest hits.

The appeals court found that the jury wrongly granted Jones money from licensing fees, wrongly went beyond the 10% royalty rate Jones was paid for record sales, and incorrectly granted Jones money for remixes of Jackson's master recordings.

The court kept intact \$2.5 million of the award, which Jones said he was owed for the use of his masters in "This Is It" and other fees.

Gary Busey to host
'Pet Judge' for Amazon

What do you get when you cross Gary Busey, Judge Judy and Joe Exotic? Whatever it is, it's debuting May 25 on Amazon Prime.

The 75-year-old actor will hold court on the six-part series "Gary Busey: Pet Judge," where animal owners can settle their grievances before what's sure to be a kangaroo court.

Rolling Stone revealed the release date for Busey's show, which the Academy Award-nominated actor started teasing on social media last week.

The cases Busey expects to hear reportedly include "monkeys, goats, birds, dogs, meerkats and turtles."

From wire reports

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OPINION

Trump shows he isn't interested in unity

By DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

To preserve what passes for my mental health, I avoid as much as possible President Donald Trump's Twitter habits. Some theorize that his feed is a sort of cat toy that hangs in front of the media to distract us from his agenda. Others study it as a map of one man's disturbed and disturbing mind. Still others — including, I suspect, most Trump supporters — perceive it to be a sort of Andy Kaufmanesque performance art, compelling and bewildering at the same time. What's he doing, and what'll he do next? Or maybe it's more in the vein of David Blaine, the self-mortifying magician who professes, debates and even tortures himself in front of audiences who find it difficult to look away. Which means they are watching. Which is the goal.

The presidential Twitter feed is probably all these things, and more. What it's not, however, is an illuminating good-faith discussion of issues and opportunities facing the American people. So I prefer not to fall under its mesmerizing spell.

Today, I'm making an exception. A Trump tweet passed through my peripheral vision that struck me as so nakedly revealing of its author's values and character that it is worthy of examination. It's almost Shakespearean in the way it distills to a few words a complex web of circumstances and ideas.

We start with a little message recorded by former President George W. Bush as part of a fundraising project for coronavirus-related relief efforts. Most listeners found it to be a gentle pep talk urging Americans to uphold values of kindness, generosity and mutual support while meeting the challenge of the pandemic. Bush closed on this note: "Finally, let us remember how small our differences are in the face of this shared threat. In the final

Our life-or-death struggle with a new disease has become, for Trump, just another chance to divide the country.

analysis, we are not partisan combatants, we are human beings, equally vulnerable and equally wonderful in the sight of God. We rise or fall together, and we are determined to rise."

Enter Pete Hegseth, a decorated Army veteran turned Fox News television commentator. Every TV host needs a niche, and Hegseth finds his in a cartoonishly exaggerated version of conservative patriotism. Normal soldiers respect the Constitution they have pledged to defend. Ultra-soldier Hegseth has part of the preamble tattooed on his forearm.

He was offended by the timing of Bush's declaration that we are not partisan combatants. Why, Hegseth demanded to know, didn't he say that during Trump's impeachment proceedings? Personally, I'd guess it's because the impeachment was partisan combat. But the TV provocateur's half-baked question made so much sense to Trump that he repeated it in a tweet, adding, for good measure, that Bush "was nowhere to be found in speaking up against the greatest hoax in American history!"

What I find revealing is that the word "Trump" appears nowhere in the Bush statement. The former president was plainly speaking in a general way about all Americans "equally." Yet Trump's tweet embraced and amplified the idea that Bush's remarks should properly be viewed through the prism of Trump's political fortunes. Why?

No doubt the president's florid narci-

ssism explains part of his reaction. (It certainly explains Hegseth's slandering courtship of the Trump ego.) As the only noteworthy occupant of his own psychological state, Trump seems to think everything is about him.

But something more was going on. Even a narcissist could choose to hear the call to unity and think: Isn't that nice? As president in a crisis, I need everyone pulling together, and he's trying to help me with that.

Since George Washington waded goodbye, every president has been the leader of a party. But they also lead the nation, especially in times of great peril. Yet here, a plea for national unity is the occasion for a presidential rebuke. The only sensible explanation: The president has no interest in unity.

Like the heart beneath Edgar Allan Poe's floorboards pounding in the ears of a guilty man, Bush's statement hit Trump like an indictment. He knows that unifying the public is not on his agenda. He has no interest in bringing us together. After all, there is no "team" in "I."

Our life-or-death struggle with a new disease has become, for Trump, just another chance to divide the country, to leverage resentments, to fuel suspicion, to antagonize his critics — in the slim hope that he'll galvanize his supporters while demoralizing the opposition. That's why he thinks the Bush statement is about him.

On a March day in 1865, near the end of four long and bloody years of Civil War, Abraham Lincoln spoke of national unity, "with malice toward none, with charity for all." He never lost sight of the better angels of our nature. That is how presidents are supposed to lead. And it's the reason — in case Trump is still wondering — Lincoln gets good press.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

Russian policies and leadership shape the Mideast

By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

The foreign ministers of Iran, Russia and Turkey held a successful video conference on April 22. The purpose was to rein in the seemingly endless violence in Syria. This is the latest instance of continuing cooperation among traditional opponents.

Earlier, on March 5, Russia and Turkey agreed to a cease-fire. This followed a dangerous escalation in violence. Retaliation for the deaths of 60 Turkish troops led to increased support by Ankara for surviving rebel groups in Syria, and a devastating series of drone attacks against Syrian government forces.

The decision by Vladimir Putin in 2015 to intervene with military forces in the brutal combat in Syria has led to sustained expansion of Russia's influence in the region. Along with other benefits, Moscow has greatly increased the staying power of the regime of Syria President Bashar Assad.

Historically, Moscow has been preoccupied with secure national borders, especially in Eastern Europe, and generally abstained from sending military forces long distances. This traditional approach has now been abandoned by Putin, who has become a daring military gambler in the Mideast. That in turn has extremely serious military security implications for the United States. Our own lack of engagement with the region outside of the continu-

ing strong commitment to Israel means there is no significant counterweight to Russia's expanding political and military influence.

Russia has a long history of involvement in the volatile region, especially Syria. The profoundly serious Suez Crisis of 1956 resulted in sharp rupture among Western allies, as the Eisenhower administration refused to support a combined military assault by Britain, France and Israel to retake the Suez Canal and seize the Sinai Peninsula from nationalist Egypt.

From that time until the end of the Cold War, Moscow had significant influence. Hafez Assad, father of the current president, helped instigate a successful 1963 coup. By 1970, he consolidated his position and ruled until 2000. Ironically, given developments today, he was regarded as relatively moderate and an economic modernizer, though in the context of a dictatorship.

Syria developed close military partnership with Egypt, and the two nations went to war together against Israel in October 1973. The Yom Kippur War also witnessed American-Soviet nuclear confrontation. This crisis arguably was as serious as the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962, though conducted almost entirely outside public view, in great contrast to the confrontation over missiles in Cuba.

The Watergate domestic political crisis colors recollections among some Nixon administration officials. Nevertheless, reasonable conclusions can be drawn.

First, President Richard Nixon aggressively pursued the essential need to get aid to Israel. At the same time, Israel was pressured successfully to show restraint regarding encircled Egyptian forces. In short, vital U.S. interests in the region were recognized clearly and protected.

Second, visible actions were taken to demonstrate U.S. military resolve: B-52 bombers were moved from Guam to the U.S., the Army's 82nd Airborne Division was placed on alert.

Third, the U.S. ultimately did not pursue a proposed joint "condominium" advocated by the Soviets. Interests were too divergent on both sides. This bears directly on diplomatic efforts by Putin for international collaboration regarding Syria. Moscow clearly sees no reason to involve the U.S.

President Jimmy Carter brokered Egypt-Israel peace. President George H.W. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker initiated complex multilateral negotiations that resulted in partial Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. Moscow was involved.

President Barack Obama and his administration pursued a largely rhetorical approach to the ongoing brutal Syria civil war. A declaration that use of poison gas by Syria would lead to military retaliation proved hollow.

Putin immediately seized the opportunity and secured a Damascus declaration abandoning chemical weapons. That event marked the end of serious U.S. influence.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College and author of "After the Cold War."

OPINION

The blame pandemic worsens another crisis

BY MITCH DANIELS

Special to The Washington Post

What follows is not a prediction. More of a prosecution, based on a premonition. While I'm wearing out the prefix, let's call it a preventive prescription.

I'm worried about preventing a sickness, one we've been through before — much more recently than the last pandemic flu. It's our tribal eagerness to employ 20/20 rearview vision and castigate the Other Side for its mistakes, even those made in all sincerity, even those the second-guessers failed to dispute, or even endorsed, at the outset. Since everything these days seems to call for a snappy abbreviation, let's use HRD, for Hindsight Recrimination Disorder.

In the first years of this century, the consensus conclusion of multiple national intelligence agencies was that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had or was close to acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Based on that "expert" information, the United States organized a large number of nations in a massive campaign to eliminate the threat, which proved unjustifiably expensive in both human and economic terms.

Because the intelligence was wrong, The WMDs weren't real; they proved to be a dictator's bluff. A reasonable postmortem would have been to review the performance of those who misread the information and try to learn lessons that might help us avoid repeating the error. Decision-makers of the time could have been criticized for not seeing through faulty data they had been given, without being trashed as liars or incompetents pursuing personal agendas.

Of course, that's not what happened. People who had examined the information and come to their own conclusion favoring military action developed a contortionist amnesia to denounce the exact viewpoint they had once held, or even voted for. Con-



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Customers are assisted by an employee at CraftWay Kitchen, a restaurant in Plano, Texas, on Friday. A large sign thanks customers for their understanding as the eatery makes adjustments adhering to recommended social distancing guidelines.

spiracy theorists were permitted, even encouraged, to foment the slander that someone fabricated the inaccurate intelligence. Today's poisonous, partisan atmosphere carries some of the toxins from the ugly Iraq War aftermath.

It's easy to imagine the coronavirus producing the same potentially deadly symptom. None of us knows how this is going to turn out. It could be that the maximalist measures we've taken, with all their brutal consequences in lost jobs, dashed dreams, interrupted educations, second-order deaths — from foregone care, postponed surgeries, addiction relapses and suicides, you name it — will all prove warranted.

I, for one, hope so. I earnestly hope that our public officials, who are acting on the

best (they believe) intelligence available to them, have chosen wisely. Because I think we pay a frightful societal price when we fail to establish social distance from HRD.

The conspiracists will have a lot of raw material to exploit. Even more than in the Iraq experience, it will be simple to identify special-interest motives and claim they drove a campaign that deceived the rest of us into an overreaction. The public health community, underappreciated in normal times, has been handed a fabulous lime-light opportunity. They're not only on TV daily; they're also calling the public policy shots.

Heretofore obscure politicians have also been handed plenty of airtime to pronounce on the pandemic. At least in the short term,

they are "saving lives"; hard to be unpopular doing that. Of course, trading near-term benefits they collect for long-term costs someone else deal with is what politicians do (#nationaldeb).

Most industries are taking a terrible beating, but the news media are suddenly on a roll, at least in audience. All those eyeballs stuck at home, and desperate for news about the virus that is the reason. There has been a lot of smart and responsible reporting but also a ton of the other kind: anecdotal, sensationalist, alarmist. The old print maxim, "If it bleeds, it leads," now has its modern-day update, "If it's sick, it clicks."

Again, my hope is that what we've been doing will be fully vindicated. I want us to discover that this was the wisest course, that the greatly price we've paying is all worth it. But it's the long term that matters. I can already hear the outcry claiming, "They lied to us."

Sweden, hey, wasn't it just yesterday we were being lectured to admire and emulate its health care system? It has been criticized for a high per capita coronavirus death rate, but declining to shut down its entire society. But what if after a year or two Sweden's rate is far below ours, due to the herd immunity we are postponing? What if people as thoughtful as New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman have been right about protecting the most vulnerable without ruining the futures of millions?

Let's not reprise Iraq. How about we self-vaccinate against HRD and all agree that, whatever comes, people right now are doing their best with the information they have. If their judgments turn out to be mistaken, let's avoid another orgy of tribal recrimination and agree that we won't repeat the errors. Here's a type of HRD immunity we can achieve without becoming ill ourselves.

Mitch Daniels, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is president of Purdue University and a former governor of Indiana.

What your post-lockdown office will look like

BY THERESE RAPHAEL

Bloomberg Opinion

Whether working from home has been a productivity and wellness-enhancing revelation or a burden to be shouldered with stoic resolve depends on your job, your home setup and your personality. It may even depend on the day. But just as air travel changed beyond recognition after 9/11, traditional offices appear set to become safer, cleaner and less pleasing environments too.

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is preparing to unveil detailed guidance on Sunday for bringing Britain out of lockdown. Each employment sector will have to adapt in different ways but leaked drafts of his plans suggest that those of us who work in conventional offices will find they look and feel very different in the coronavirus era.

One noticeable change will be proximity to other workers; we'll sit at least 6.5 feet apart. There won't be no squeezing in the extra person at the lunch table or in a conference room. Forget hot desking. The use of printers and whiteboards will be frowned upon. Tape or paint will mark off lanes and close off desks to enforce distancing and spacing, even in elevators. Sanitizer stations will be everywhere. We'll arrive and leave at staggered times, in single file, from separate entrances if possible.

Some will happily accept these curtain-

ments in order to be back in the physical fray of office life, and out of their own kitchens and living rooms. For this group, there's no substitute for face time with colleagues and the energy an office brings.

Others have found remote working saves time and energy on commuting, while it has the happy advantage of lessening your chances of infection. Many of these people feel it also provides fewer distractions and a better life balance without sacrificing productivity (although others have found all hope of balance or delineation between work and personal time has gone out the window).

The "WFH" fans will take a dim view of the brave new workplace. I can bounce between the opposing views depending on the day and task, but I probably lean toward thinking that a remote working option balanced with plenty of office time is optimal. That seems confirmed by studies that show workers are happiest when they have some control over their environment.

A recent Gallup poll of at-home workers in the U.S. found more than half wanted to continue to work remotely as much as possible, although the number dropped to 53% from 62% the longer their spell of remote working continued. Workers in finance, technology, media, insurance and professional services were most likely to prefer remote working more than those in education, retail, construction and transport.

What's surprising is how positively managers view the experience, with more than

half saying they'll allow employees to work remotely more often. The result may be extra regional offices, less business travel and more Zoom meetings.

There may be other benefits to the change. When we're in the office, we may value our relationships with colleagues a bit more than in the days before COVID-19. Given that many women take career breaks because of their employer's dogmatic rigidity on working practices rather than any desire for a long pause, a new flexibility may prove beneficial to women. It may help men become more engaged in parenting and home life.

In the U.K., remote working has been increasing in recent years, although it still only applied to 5% of the country's workforce before this period of lockdowns. That's likely to change, given the range of jobs that can be done remotely and the government's need to manage the flow of people using mass transit systems like London's Tube.

If Britain follows a similar strategy to Ireland's (announced last week) and responds to the growing pressure from business leaders to provide return dates, workers with very little contact in their offices could be back at work before the end of June, while others would return in the second half of July. But Johnson will probably ask those who can work from home to keep doing so. That would make sense. His "stay at home" message has been so successful that many Britons are reluctant to

return to work environments.

Still, the reopening plans will also create confusion, and employers demanding clarity are unlikely to get it. As prescriptive as it sounds, the new guidance will still leave a lot up to interpretation, sprinkling in phrases such as "where possible." Britain's trade unions are already pressing for clearly mandated safety measures. Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, has criticized the consultation documents as too vague and he's calling for a "national safety standard."

I haven't walked around the City of London since our team was sent home in March, but I picture miles of empty offices and deserted streets, nearly all the working home of some 522,000 professionals, who emerge from Underground stations each morning, gliding gleaming buildings and patronize the local bars, gyms and restaurants. Worst of all is thinking of Bloomberg's recently built, prize-winning headquarters, standing largely empty. But just as people got used to new rules for flying after 9/11, I suspect we'll be back to sharing space with colleagues eventually. It's just going to be different.

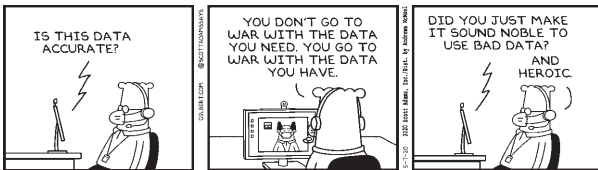
"I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left headquarter," says a study by Bernard (Ed Helms) in the finale of the NBC sitcom "The Office." Don't we all.

Theresa Raphael is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

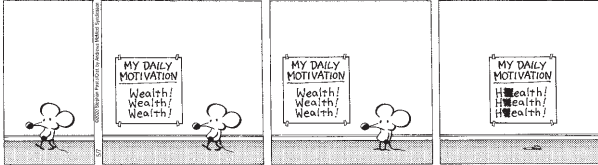
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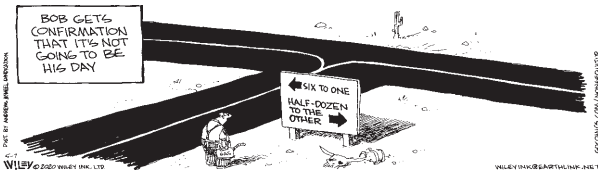
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



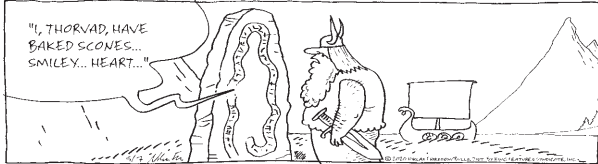
Non Sequitur



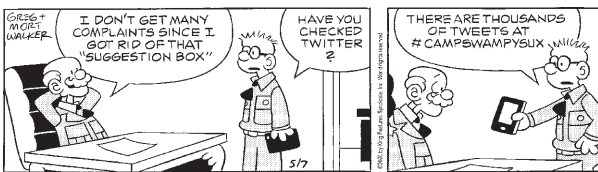
Candorville



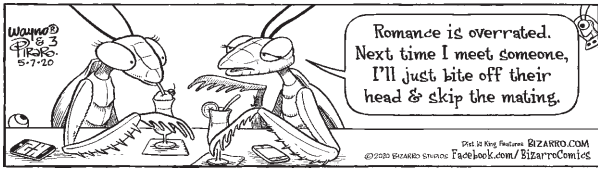
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20	21		
			22						23			
24	25	26			27	28	29			30	31	
32					33				34			
35			36	37					38			
		39						40	41			
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

ACROSS

- 1 Sub shop
- 5 Jungfrau, for one
- 8 Salon jobs
- 12 Store sign
- 13 Homer's cry
- 14 Humpty's perch
- 15 Boxing arbiters
- 16 Flamenco cheer
- 17 "That's — ask"
- 18 Thing in a shower
- 20 Most ironic
- 22 Genetic letters
- 23 Gerund ending
- 24 Actor Reynolds
- 27 Promo on a website
- 33 Director Ang
- 34 Blackbird
- 35 Pre-television age
- 38 Tosses in
- 39 Hostel
- 40 Sluggish's stat
- 42 Venus, to Serena
- 45 Bates of "Psycho"
- 49 Silver salmon
- 50 Log chopper
- 52 Take the bait
- 53 "Closer"
- actor Clive
- 54 Refusals
- 55 Military group

DOWN

- 1 Campus digs
- 2 Duel tool
- 3 Departed
- 4 Magazine extra
- 5 Super-cute
- 6 Texter's chuckle
- 7 "Close one!"
- 8 Johnson, aka "The Rock"
- 9 Jodie Foster or Maya Lin, e.g.
- 10 Building wings
- 11 Thin cut
- 19 Atop
- 21 — Tin Tin
- 24 Happy hour venue
- 25 Ms. Thurman
- 26 Crunchy salad veggies
- 28 — Lingus
- 29 Proximity
- 30 Moreover
- 31 Insult, slangily
- 36 Chant
- 37 Inseparable
- 38 Boeing rival
- 41 Little — Peep
- 42 Highlander
- 43 Hawkeyes' home
- 44 Harangue
- 46 Coal source
- 47 Bickering
- 48 Tennis barriers
- 51 Tic-tac-toe loser

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	I	E	T	F	E	Z	C	B	E	R
E	D	N	A	A	R	T	R	O	P	E
B	E	D	L	I	N	E	N	O	X	E
T	A	S	E	R	C	O	O	L	E	D
			S	K	I	S	G	N	U	
C	U	B	E	S	O	A	R	N	A	P
A	K	A	T	E	N	S	E	C	H	A
W	E	B	H	E	A	T	S	H	A	D
			Y	O	U	R	I	O	T	
B	E	L	U	G	A	T	R	E	N	D
A	L	O	T	B	R	U	C	E	L	E
L	I	V	E	B	U	S	E	L	A	L
D	E	E	R	A	B	S	P	A	R	T

5-7

CRYPTOQUIP

A I P J B C P Y N Y P Q L O P H W L J N J
S K I S P E P G S P U E B I V Q C
W K V Q C E V Q P Q
L Q E P W V E O P H W I J U S P U :
Y V G W I Q A P B G U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF HAMLET DIDN'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHICH LEG BONE WAS WHICH, HE MIGHT ASK "TIBIA OR NOT TIBIA?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals A



Brighten your day!

Read letters from kids to
deployed servicemembers and
their heartwarming responses.



SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS/SOCCER

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Re-signed OLB Pernell McPhee. Signed fifth-round draft pick DT Brodrick Johnson. Signed undrafted free agents: CB Khalil Dorsey, WR Jayvon Moore, CB Josh Nurse, S Nigel Warrior. OLB Marcus Willoughby and TE Eli Wolf.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed undrafted free agents: LB Solomon Ajayi, S Elijah Benton, S Jovante Moffatt, WR JaMarcus Bradley, WR Tony Brown, CB Kevin Davidson, T Drake Dorsett, T Alex Taylor, CB A.J. Green, CB Jameson Houston, RB Brian Herrien, RB Ben LeMay, DE George Obinna, DT Jeffery Whitley and TE Nate Wiering.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed DE Aaron Lynch.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed undrafted free agents: TE Nick Bowens, CB Madre Riverper, S Liam McCullough and LB Javin White.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed undrafted free agents: TE Rashad Berry, DB Myles Bryant, TE Jake Butt, DL Nick Cole, LB DeJon Harris, WR Will Hastings, QB Brian Lewerke, DL Bill Murray, WR Sean McEwan, QB Jamar Smith, RB J.J. Taylor, LB Khayia Tezino, WR Jeff Thomas, DL Courtney Wallace and WR Isaiah Zuber.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Waived WR Reggie White.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Re-signed T Josh Wells.

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	46	18	.719	—
Boston	43	21	.672	3
Philadelphia	39	26	.600	7½
Brooklyn	30	34	.469	16
New York	21	45	.318	26

Southeast Division				
Miami	41	24	.631	—
Orlando	30	35	.462	11
Washington	24	40	.375	16½
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18

Atlanta	20	47	.299	22
Central Division				
Milwaukee	53	12	.815	—
Indiana	39	26	.600	14
Chicago	22	43	.338	31

Detroit	20	46	.303	33½
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	24	.625	—
Dallas	40	27	.597	1½
Memphis	32	33	.492	8½

New Orleans	28	36	.438	12½
San Antonio	27	36	.429	12½
Northwest Division				
Denver	43	22	.662	—
Utah	41	23	.641	1½
Oklahoma City	40	24	.625	2½
Portland	29	37	.439	14½
Minnesota	19	45	.297	23½
Pacific Division				

L.A. Lakers	49	14	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	44	20	.688	5½
Sacramento	28	36	.438	21½
Phoenix	26	39	.400	24
Golden State	15	50	.231	35

AP spotlight

May 7
1972 — The Los Angeles Lakers win their first NBA championship with a 114-100 victory over the New York Knicks in Game 5.

1982 — A federal jury rules that the NFL violated antitrust laws when it unsuccessfully attempted to prevent the Oakland Raiders from moving to Los Angeles.

1993 — Wayne Gretzky of the Los Angeles Kings scores his 100th and 101st playoff goals in a 7-4 win over the Vancouver Canucks.

1995 — Reggie Miller scores eight points in the last 16 seconds to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 107-105 win over the New York Knicks in the second-round opener of the NBA playoffs.

1997 — The Montreal Expos set two National League records by scoring 18 runs in two consecutive innings. The Expos' 13 runs in the sixth, an NL record, allowed a five-run fifth inning as they beat the San Francisco Giants 19-3.

2003 — The Boston Red Sox victory over Houston is the most lopsided Game 7 series in NBA history. The Mavericks are the third team in playoff history to win a seven-game series after losing the first two games at home.

Briefly

Tagovailoa will wear No. 1 for Dolphins

Associated Press

MIAMI — Rookie quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Miami Dolphins' top draft pick, will wear uniform No. 1.

Tagovailoa will be the first Dolphins QB to wear No. 1, which was most famously worn by kicker Garo Yepremian.

If Tagovailoa had been drafted by any other team besides the Dolphins, he probably would have chosen to wear No. 13 in the NFL, which is the same number that he wore during his college career at Alabama.

However, that option isn't an option in Miami because the Dolphins retired it back in 2003 as a way to honor the greatest quarterback in franchise history, Dan Marino.

"I'm not too worried about what number I have. I understand No. 13 is retired, and it should be," Tagovailoa said on draft night. "Dan Marino, he's the GOAT. He's like the mayor out there and I have much respect for him."

Tagovailoa did wear No. 11 in high school, but Dolphins receiver DeVante Parker has owned the number for the past five seasons.

No. 2 was an option for Tagovailoa, but that number was worn by punter Matt Haack, and No. 3 is already occupied by fellow quarterback Josh Rosen.

Gore agrees to 1-year deal with Jets

NEW YORK — Running back Frank Gore has agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the New York Jets, agent Drew Rosenhaus announced.

Gore, who turns 37 next Thursday, will join a Jets backfield that also includes Le'Veon Bell and fourth-round draft pick La'Mical Perine. Gore is third on the NFL's career rushing list with 15,269 yards.

The signing reunites Gore with



VASHA HUNT/AP

Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa wore No. 13 at Alabama but will wear No. 1 as a rookie with the Miami Dolphins.

coach Adam Gase, for whom he played in Miami in 2018.

The two were also together in San Francisco in 2008, when Gase was an offensive assistant.

ESPN first reported the agreement between the Jets and Gore, who trails only Emmitt Smith (18,355) and Walter Payton (16,726) in yards rushing.

Gore spent last season with Buffalo, where he ran for a career-low 599 yards in 16 games.

In other NFL news: ■ Quincy Enunwa's playing career with the New York Jets is likely over after he and fellow wide receiver Josh Bellamy were placed on the reserve/physically unable to perform list.

The moves Tuesday effectively ended each of the player's seasons with the Jets, four months before the opener is scheduled.

Tennis groups start fund for players' relief

More than \$6 million has been raised by the governing bodies of

tennis for a relief fund aimed at helping 800 players deal with the financial effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The WTA and ATP tours, the International Tennis Federation and the groups that run the four Grand Slam tournaments announced Tuesday that they have formed the "Player Relief Programme."

The Associated Press reported details of the plan Monday.

The seven groups said the money will be divided evenly among women and men, and will go to singles and doubles players.

In other tennis news:

■ If given the option, Rafael Nadal said he would scrap this season entirely so tennis could resume normally in 2021.

The second-ranked Spaniard, who is 33 years old and has won 19 Grand Slam titles, said he hoped to resume playing this year but doubted it could happen because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I would sign up right now just to be ready for 2021," Nadal

said in interviews with El Pais and other Spanish newspapers published Tuesday. "I'm more concerned with the Australian Open than with what happens later this year."

■ The head of the Australian Open says various contingency plans are being considered for the Grand Slam tournament scheduled for January 2021. They include scrapping it altogether because of the coronavirus pandemic or allowing just spectators from the host country.

World Amateur team golf scratched

The International Golf Federation says the World Amateur Team Championships for men and women — scheduled over two weeks in October in Singapore — have been scratched. The tournament dates to 1958. It was moved in February from Hong Kong because of social unrest.

The World Amateur Team is held every other year. The IGF decided not to postpone it until 2021 because of the effect it would create with scheduling problems. It next will be played in France in 2022.

WADA seeks more funding for drug testing

DUSSELDORF, Germany — Even with sports shut down and little testing going on, World Anti-Doping Agency President Witold Banka is trying to convince governments to stump up extra funding in the fight against drug cheats.

The testing around the world has nearly ground to a halt due to lockdown restrictions, leaving anti-doping officials looking to other methods to catch cheats. That means more focus on investigations and longer-term analysis of athletes' data.



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

US national player Weston McKennie exercises with his Bundesliga team FC Schalke 04. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the Bundesliga can resume playing this month, ending a two-month suspension.

Associated Press

BERLIN — The Bundesliga can resume playing this month, ending a two-month suspension caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a loosening of a range of containment measures after meeting with the country's 16 state governors on Wednesday. Pressure to relax the rules had been growing as the rate of daily infections in the country has dropped.

Soccer in the top two divisions will resume without spectators and with a range of other conditions designed to prevent another outbreak, including the continuous monitoring and testing of players. Teams will also have to spend time in quarantine before games can restart.

"Today's decision is good news for the Bundesliga and second division," German soccer league president Christian Seibert said. "It comes with great responsibility for the clubs and their employees to implement the medical and organizational requirements

in a disciplined manner.

"Games without spectators are not ideal for anyone. In a crisis threatening the very existence of some clubs, however, it is the only way to keep the leagues in their current form."

The decision to allow play to resume came despite three positive tests for the virus at Cologne last weekend. The league said there were 10 positive cases from all 36 clubs in the top two divisions.

Hertha Berlin forward Salomon Kalou also broadcast a livestream showing social distancing measures being flouted at the club on Monday.

Bavaria governor Markus Söder called it a "spectacular own-goal" on Wednesday.

"I can only appeal for players who behave unreasonably to face consequences," Söder said.

Hertha has suspended Kalou and blamed the player for the mishap, but there were also infringements that were the club's responsibility, such as closed doors between rooms.

German soccer gets OK to resume

NHL/MLS



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Left wing Kevin Fiala's emergence as a go-to scorer before the NHL went on hiatus was the best part of the Minnesota Wild's season so far.

Wild hope Fiala rekindles spark when NHL resumes

Young wing became go-to scorer

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

Frozen by the virus shutdown but not forgotten was Kevin Fiala's emergence, a surge that gave the Minnesota Wild a glimpse of the go-to scorer they have lacked for much of their history.

Emelia Parise will remember it as well as anyone.

Zach Parise's daughter became quite the fan as her father's teammate racked up 14 goals and 12 assists over the last 18 games before NHL play was halted. When school was still in session earlier this year, Parise's 6-year-old twins, Emelia and Jaxson, took part in a pick-a-local-sports-hero project with their classmates who were well aware of Parise's occupation.

"I'd say 90% of them wrote Zach Parise's their favorite. Except for my daughter. She wrote Kevin Fiala," Parise said recently. "So that's how things are going in my household right now."

Who could blame her? The 23-year-old left wing had already matched his career best with 23 goals and blown by his previous personal assists record of 26 with 31. Fiala leads the league with four game-winning goals.

"He's been playing awesome for us," Parise said. "He was on a tear before this thing ended up happening, so hopefully he can keep that momentum."

If the 2019-20 season ever resumes, Fiala's sequestering spot at his summer home in Gothenburg, Sweden, ought to help him recapture some of that mojo. There, society has operated under fewer restrictions, allowing Fiala the opportunity for daily ice time. He has skated with fellow NHL players Anton Blidh, Pierre Engvall and John Klingberg to try to stay in shape.

"It's very important for me to be consistent and just continue like I finished, if it continues or if it's going to start next season, you know?" Fiala said last week during a video conference call with reporters. "I'm comfortable I can do that."

He later added: "I don't want to be to just one season. I have a lot of work to do, and I'm still a young player. My career is hopefully still long."

The only pure scorer with true take-over-a-game ability the Wild have had in their two decades is Marian Gaborik, who had 38 goals in 2005-06 and 42 in 2007-08. The only other Wild player to top the 35-goal mark was Eric Staal, with 42 goals in 2017-18. Whenever the NHL gets the green light to stage games again, the spotlight will be on Fiala as he attempts to continue his development into the top-line star the Wild have been waiting for.

"He's the guy where fans are starting to get out of their seats now," goalie Alex Stalock said

DID YOU KNOW?

Swedish left wing Kevin Fiala had already matched his career best with 23 goals and set a new personal assists record (31) when the NHL season was put on hiatus due to the new coronavirus. He racked up 14 goals and 12 assists in the last 18 games before play was halted.

SOURCE: Associated Press

last month before the shutdown. "Not only can he do it, with the moves and be a defenseman, but the puck finds the back of the net, and that's not easy to do."

Fiala's production in February and March provided some validation for former general manager Paul Fenton's otherwise unsatisfying 15 months on the job. Acquired just before the trade deadline from Nashville for another underperforming first-round draft pick, right wing Mikael Granlund, Fiala finished with only 13 goals in 83 games between the Predators and the Wild.

This season started similarly for him, as the Wild fell immediately into a big hole in the Western Conference standings. Fiala didn't score until November. Over a 17-game stretch from Dec. 17 through Feb. 1, he had only one goal. He began to find a groove after that, though, with those slick stick skills and keen ice vision coming to the surface and helping the Wild climb back into the playoff chase.

Real Salt Lake's Rossi getting by in unfamiliar city

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Giuseppe Rossi was hoping Major League Soccer would jump-start his career.

Beset by injuries in recent years, the former Villarreal forward was signed by Real Salt Lake in February. He moved to Salt Lake City and made his MLS debut in the second half of the team's opener against Orlando City.

Then everything came to a standstill because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Now Rossi finds himself isolated in an unfamiliar city while his wife is home in New Jersey.

The league suspended play March 12, when teams were just two games into the 2020 season. The latest training moratorium extends through at least May 15.

Rossi bought a video game console and is tackling a 1,000-piece puzzle. He's even trying his hand at painting.

"Just going out and grabbing something to eat, getting to know the city a little bit more, I feel like that's kind of been taken away. So that's why it's kind of hard to feel whole, in a certain way," Rossi said. "It's tough when you're not from the area, when you don't know people. So you try to find these little things like a painting or like a puzzle or like PlayStation and try to make that your whole day."

Rossi, 33, was born in New Jersey to Italian immigrants but moved to Italy at age 12 to pursue a soccer career. He was still a teenager when he made his debut for Manchester United.

He joined Villarreal in 2007 and had his best season in 2010-11, when he had 18 goals and seven assists in league play. Back-to-back knee injuries slowed his momentum, but he still leads the

La Liga team with 82 career goals in five seasons.

Rossi also chose to play for Italy's national team, famously turning down an invitation to the U.S. national team's 2006 pre-World Cup camp by then-coach Bruce Arena.

Rossi returned to train with Villarreal for two months last year. But because he'd been out of the game for more than a year, there was really no prospect of him returning to the club. Then the opportunity with RSL came along.

"It was the right energy that I felt from them. The right words were said. I felt as if they really wanted me to be part of this project," he said.

Daily solo workouts are keeping his mind off his current situation, as well as the toll the virus has taken.

"I want to work out for like 10 hours straight because your mind just goes to the workout and you're not thinking about all the things that are around you. You know, having my family in Italy, having my family in New Jersey, which is another spot that was hit hard," he said. "It's just like, 'My Gosh, I just want to get this out of my head.'"

He has a list of things to see in Utah, which he'll save for when he's reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he's doing his best to connect with his new teammates.

"I think I'm learning how things are not in my control, how I'm able to stay patient, how I'm able to just go on with life, knowing that my destiny is not in my own control. So that's something that I'm still learning about myself. I still have difficulty trying to comprehend, like, 'How the hell are we in this situation?' I want to go back to training. I want to go back home and see my family," he said.



SANG TAN/AP

Giuseppe Rossi had spent his entire professional career in Europe before signing with Real Salt Lake prior to this season.

NFL/VIRUS OUTBREAK/NBA

NFL prepares for full ticket refunds as a backup plan

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

While planning to play a full regular-season schedule, the NFL has formulated a ticket refund plan for canceled games or those held without fans.

In a memo sent to the 32 teams by Commissioner Roger Goodell and obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday, a uniform baseline for full refunds on any tickets purchased directly from the clubs was prepared.

Goodell wrote that "all clubs will have in place a policy under which, if a game is canceled, or is played under conditions that prohibit fans from attending, anyone purchasing a ticket directly from the club (i.e., season tickets, group sales and/or partial season groups) will have the option of either receiving a full refund or applying the amount paid toward a future ticket purchase directly from the club."

As for the secondary market, the league received pledges from Ticketmaster and SeatGee to make full refunds available for all ticket sales within no more than 30 days of cancellation. StubHub, however, will do so only where required by state law.

The NFL will reveal its 2020 regular-season schedule on Thursday night. While it is discussing contingencies for altera-

tions to the schedule due to the coronavirus pandemic, it currently is planning for a normal season.

"In preparing for all elements of the 2020 season, including the schedule release, we have considered the unique circumstances facing us this year," Goodell wrote, "and have been clear that all of our decisions will be guided by medical and public health advice and will comply with government regulations. We will be prepared to make necessary adjustments just as we have in other contexts, such as the offseason program and the draft."

"I believe the policies that clubs have in place will serve the league and all member clubs in a variety of ways and will allow us to continue preparing for the 2020 season while also protecting the interests of our fans."

Each team will communicate directly with its fans over the next few days with specific details on potential refunds.

Although contingency plans hardly are a regular procedure for the NFL, the specter of significant changes to the season, from delays to a shortened schedule, have to be considered this year. Each season, NFL teams and the league office re-examine what they term "fan friendly" ticket refund policies.

76ers' GM: Simmons close to NBA return

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia 76ers All-Star guard Joel Simmons is closer to getting cleared to play, should the NBA season resume.

The league leader in steals was sidelined with nerve issues in his lower back when the season was suspended on March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic. He was allowed to rehabilitate at the 76ers' practice facility in Camden, N.J., but there seemed to be no guarantee he would have been cleared to play in time for a play-off run.

"We've took our time, we've been methodical and thoughtful about his recovery and rehab, just to make sure, because we weren't in a rush," 76ers GM Elton Brand said Tuesday. "It's hard to speculate. He's been working hard and I think he'd be close or ready."

Simmons had missed his eighth straight game and was receiving

daily treatment for his nerve impingement at the time the season stopped. Brand, speaking to media for the first time since, said he would not speculate on Simmons' availability had the Sixers still been playing in the postseason. Simmons had yet to play 3-on-3 or 5-on-5 during his rehab.

"When I FaceTime him during his workouts and his treatments and I see him, I'd be highly encouraged," Brand said. "His ramp-up would be different."

The 23-year-old Simmons averaged 16.7 points, 7.8 rebounds and 8.2 assists in 54 games.

He and other players undergoing rehab, including All-Star center Joel Embiid, have permission to use the 76ers' practice facility. Embiid was recovering from surgery on his left hand and had just returned after missing five games with a sprained left shoulder at the time of the shutdown.



BERNAT ARMANOU/AP

People exercise in Madrid on May 2 after Spaniards were able to exercise outdoors for the first time in seven weeks since the lockdown began to battle the coronavirus outbreak. High-performance athletes were allowed to resume training this week but some reported being harassed by local residents.

Spanish athletes harassed while they practice amid confinement

By TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

MADRID — Some got jeered. Others were yelled at by people on their balconies. Many received disapproving looks.

The long-awaited return to practice amid the coronavirus pandemic wasn't as pleasant as some Spanish athletes had hoped.

High-performance athletes were allowed to resume training in Spain this week after nearly two months of confinement, but some reported being harassed by local residents who thought they were breaking confinement rules.

The government has eased some of the lockdown measures that have been in place because of the pandemic, but restrictions on exercising still apply for most of the population, including specific time frames in which people from different age groups can go outside.

Professional and high-performance athletes are an exception and can exercise at any time, though some people didn't like seeing them out on the streets outside the permitted time slots for the rest of the population, either because they didn't know the rules or because they didn't recognize the athletes.

"I've never been looked at so badly and heard so many negative comments," Spanish sprinter Cristina Lara wrote on Twitter. "They also jeered some of my colleagues. It looks like we will have to go out with signs identifying ourselves."

Lara said she went out at about 10:30 a.m., which is a time reserved for the elderly. Children can go out with a parent from noon to 7 p.m., while others can



PAUL WHITE/AP

A group of cyclists, many on racing bikes, ride down the Paseo de la Castellana boulevard in Madrid, Spain on Sunday.

leave their homes from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. or from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., always while staying within 0.6 miles from their residences.

Spanish long-distance runner Carlos Mayo also went out during the time reserved for the elderly on Monday. He told Spanish radio network COPE that he was asked why he was running at that time.

"Of the nearly 50 people that I crossed paths with today, the majority of them older than 65 because that's when they could go out, five verbally called my attention, including a lady who yelled at me from her balcony," he wrote on Twitter.

Spanish marathon runner Javier Guerra said he was told by people on the streets that he was a bad example.

"From what I'm seeing, I wasn't the only one who got reprimanded while going out to practice," he wrote on Twitter. "Being a high-performance athlete, I can prac-

tice at any time during the day, but apparently that is not enough ... We understand that this is an extreme situation, but we always have to respect each other."

Other Spanish athletes who complained of harassment while practicing included steeplechase runner Irene Sánchez Escribano and long-distance runner Ignacio Fontes.

Athletes always must go out carrying the proper documentation showing that they are allowed to be out, otherwise they can be subjected to fines.

Soccer players from the first and second divisions are among the few athletes who can already train inside sports facilities and training centers, which have been closed since Spain entered a lockdown in mid-March to contain the spread of the virus that has already killed more than 25,000 people in the southern European nation.

BASEBALL

Stars: Expos earned first postseason berth in 1981

FROM BACK PAGE

"The chaos, the change, the uniqueness, the intensity — all of those elements absolutely factor into how memorable that entire time is," said Steve Rogers, the right-hander whose Montreal Expos made their first postseason appearance in 1981.

The early days of the '81 season were dominated by Fernando

'That would have been my overall best year had we played a full season. I was in the midst of my prime.'

Mike Schmidt
Phillies
third baseman

Philadelphia's last game before the strike needing one hit to tie Stan Musial's NL mark of 3,630.

Ryan was on the mound against the Phillies, and Rose tied the record with a first-inning single off him. Then Rose struck out in his next three chances against the Houston right-hander. He finally broke the record Aug. 10 against St. Louis, in his team's first game back.

Baseball's first big event after the stoppage was the All-Star game in Cleveland on Aug. 9. Schmidt homered in the eighth inning to give the NL a 5-4 win.

"That would have been my overall best year had we played a full season," Schmidt said in an email. "I was in the midst of my prime, especially following 1980. It really had nothing to do with a unique thing I did during the strike, actually I worked for CBS as a sports anchor. I did some stuff out with (Phillies reliever) Tug McGraw."

Schmidt hit .316 with 31 home

runs in 102 games. Baseball-Reference.com credits him with 7.7 wins above replacement that year. In 2019 — with a full season — only two NL players reached that WAR total.

If baseball's return went smoothly for position players like Rose and Schmidt, pitchers faced more of a challenge. And Rogers had the added responsibility of being on the union's negotiating committee during the strike. "My ability to stay in shape had been curtailed pretty significantly," Rogers said. "I really did not have the capability of throwing that much."

It would nonetheless turn into a memorable year for Rogers and the Expos. Baseball expanded its postseason, allowing the four division leaders from before the strike to qualify — and also taking the teams with the best post-strike records in each division.

That led to some unusual results. Cincinnati went 66-42 for the best overall record in the game, but the Reds finished second in both halves and missed the playoffs. Kansas City went 50-53 but won the second half in the AL West and played on.

The Milwaukee Brewers made their first playoff appearance, as well. Houston made the postseason with the help of Ryan's fifth no-hitter, Sept. 26 against the Dodgers.

In the first round of the playoffs, Rogers beat Steve Carlton twice, including in the winner-take-all fifth game at Philadelphia. He went the distance in that 3-0 victory and even drove in two runs.

In the NL Championship Series against Los Angeles, Rogers threw another complete game in a Game 3 win, but when he came on in relief in Game 5, Rick Monday homered in the top of the ninth to give the Dodgers the pennant. The ending was disappointing, but it had been a remarkable run for the Expos.

By the time the World Series ended — with the Dodgers winning in six games — it was fair to say the 1981 season, while far from ideal, had avoided becoming a farce.



PHOTOS BY LEE JIN-MAN/AP

First-base umpire Lee Ki-joong, wearing a mask and gloves as a precaution against the new coronavirus, calls a player safe during Tuesday's game between the Hanwha Eagles and SK Wyverns in Incheon, South Korea. A new baseball season got underway without any fans in the stands.

A new reality

South Korea opens season sans fans

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The new baseball season began in South Korea on Tuesday with the crack of the bat and the sound of the ball smacking into the catcher's mitt echoing around empty stadiums.

After a weeklong delay because of the coronavirus pandemic, umpires wore protective masks and cheerleaders danced beneath rows of unoccupied seats as professional baseball got back on the field.

There were many faces in the stands in at least one stadium, but they were pictures instead of real people because fans aren't allowed into the venues.

Instead, it was easy to hear players cheering and shouting from the dugouts. And it was a relief to fans watching from home in a country that is now attempting to slowly return to pre-COVID-19 normalcy amid a waning caseload.

The country's professional soccer leagues will kick off Friday, also without spectators in the stadiums.

As one of the world's first major professional sports competitions to return to action amid the pandemic, the Korea Baseball Organization has employed various preventive measures aimed at creating safe playing environments.

Players and coaches will go through fever screenings before entering stadiums, while umpires



A TV cameraman walks between rows of empty seats, which are covered with banners printed with photos of fans.

and first- and third-base coaches must wear masks during games. Players are prohibited from signing autographs or high-fiving teammates with bare hands.

Also, chewing tobacco was banned to prevent spitting, while masks and latex gloves will be required at training facilities.

Fans will be barred from games until the KBO is convinced the risk of infection has been minimized. If any member of a team tests positive for the coronavirus at any point of the season, the league will be shut down for at least three weeks.

"I feel great," said Cho Ki-hyun, a 65-year-old SK Wyverns fan who shared a mattress with three other fans outside the walls of the team's stadium in Incheon, watching the game against the Daejeon-based Hanwha Eagles

with a tablet computer. "I am delighted just to hear the sounds of a baseball game from outside."

The teams tried to create a festive atmosphere in the empty stadiums.

A full season of baseball seemed doubtful in early March when South Korea was reporting about 500 new virus infections a day, forcing the KBO to postpone its March 28 season opener.

But South Korea reported only three new cases on Tuesday, its lowest daily jump since infections surged in late February.

Barring any virus-related suspension, the KBO plans to maintain a 144-game regular-season schedule. But it decided to scrap its all-star game and shorten the first round of the playoffs from best-of-five to best-of-three series.

By the numbers

.316 **31** **7.7**

Batting average of the Phillies' Mike Schmidt over 102 games during the 1981 season, which was shortened by a strike.

Number of home runs hit in 1981 by Schmidt, who was selected NL MVP after the season for the second time in his career.

Schmidt's wins above replacement in 1981. In 2019, with a full season, only two players reached that total.

SPORTS



OK to resume
Germany's soccer league
approved for restart » **Page 20**

MLB

SHORTENED SEASON

Despite strike, stars still had opportunities to shine in 1981

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

The season began with Fernandomania and ended with a classic World Series matchup between the Dodgers and Yankees. Mike Schmidt slugged his way to a second consecutive MVP, and Nolan Ryan pitched another no-hitter.

But perhaps the best way to describe baseball in 1981 is by recounting Pete Rose's pursuit of the National League's career hits record. He tied the mark in June, then had to wait until August to break it — because a strike shut down the sport for about two months.

All Rose could do was make regular visits to the batting cage while he waited.

"I went there every freaking day," Rose said.

If baseball is able to come back at all this year, fans should be prepared for a significantly shortened season, and that 1981 campaign may be the most relevant

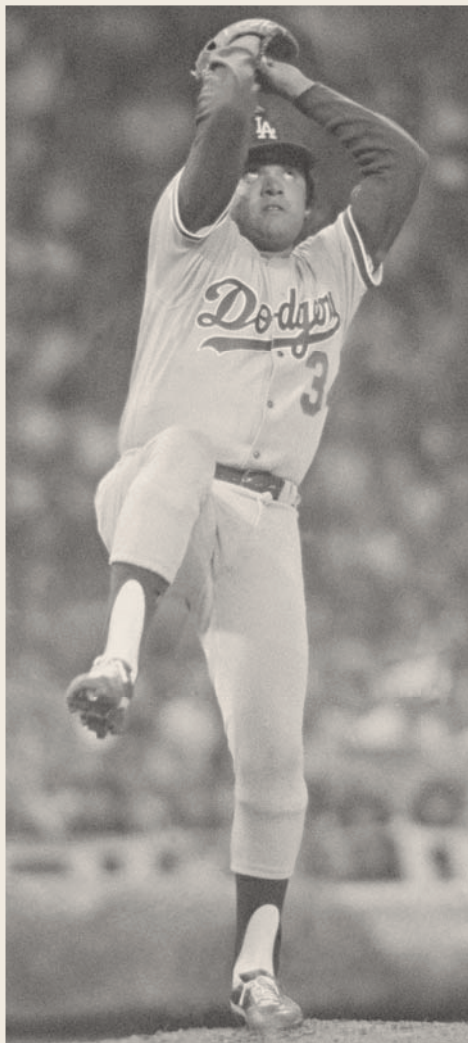


Tim Johnson/AP

The Houston Astros' Nolan Ryan waves to the crowd after pitching his fifth career no-hitter on Sept. 26, 1981.

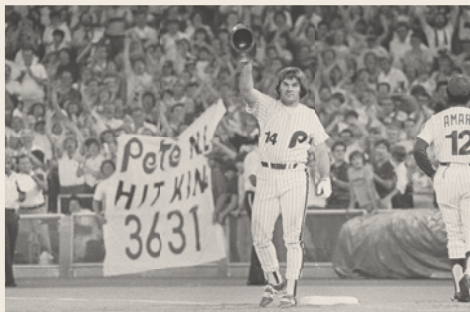
comparison available. The season was split in two by a labor dispute, but when the sport finally returned, its stars still had an abbreviated chance to shine.

SEE STARS ON PAGE 23



AP photos

Above: The Los Angeles Dodgers' Fernando Valenzuela pitches in the All-Star Game in Cleveland on Aug. 8, 1981. The Mexican rookie dominated the early part of the '81 season, winning his first eight starts and throwing five shutouts. Left: The Philadelphia Phillies' Pete Rose waves to the crowd after breaking the National League's all-time career hits record on Aug. 10, 1981.



TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

